

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

5 JANUARY 1987

Afghanistan

PDPA Secretary General Najibullah welcomed Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and CPSU official Anatoliy Dobrynin who arrived 5 January on a working visit, TASS reported.

In a speech to a 3 January session of the Extraordinary Commission for National Reconciliation broadcast by Kabul radio, Najibullah affirmed that the cease-fire starting 15 January will last 6 months. He said DRA troops will only fire in response to "open and direct" attacks by opposition forces. The DRA leader stated that a national general amnesty will be part of the "process of national resurgence" and noted that the new constitution will declare Islam the religion of Afghanistan. Najibullah called on all "true patriots" to work for peace and reconciliation.

A mujahidin leader in Islamabad termed Najibullah's efforts to form a national government "futile" and offered amnesty to any Afghan leader seeking rebel protection, AFP reported 3 January.

Afghan warplanes bombed a refugee camp in the Chitral area of northern Pakistan 3 January, AFP reported. Pakistan summoned the Afghan charge 4 January to protest an earlier "unprovoked attack" on the same area 1 January, Karachi radio noted.

Libya

Conflict in Chad — The Chadian town of Arada, located south of the 16th parallel, was bombed by Libyan warplanes 4 January, according to a communique broadcast by Ndjamena radio. One civilian was killed and five wounded, the radio reported 5 January. Oum-Chalouba-Kalait, site of a major government military base, was also bombed, the Chadian ambassador to Paris told AFP. JANA denied that Libyan warplanes bombed Kalait, but acknowledged Libyan "reconnaissance" overflights in the Libyan-Chadian border area. The French ambassador to Tripoli was summoned to the Foreign Liaison Bureau 4 January to receive an urgent message, Tripoli television reported. The Soviet envoy was also summoned and asked to convey another urgent message to his government, JANA revealed.

In response to Ndjamena communiqués reporting that 784 Libyan soldiers were killed 2-3 January in fierce fighting during which Chadian Government troops captured Fada, JANA stated 2 January that "Libyans have nothing whatsoever to do with what happened and is happening" in Fada. The agency also declared on 3 January that reports of Libyan air raids on Zouar and Fada are "unfounded" because Libya "has no forces in Chad." OAU Secretary General Ide Oumarou, who arrived in Tripoli 2 January, praised Libya's "positive efforts" toward ending the war in Chad, according to JANA.

Troop Mobilization — A 4 January announcement on Tripoli radio urged all demobilized military personnel to rejoin their

units to participate in operations to fortify the coast. Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi made an inspection tour of the fortification work, Tripoli television noted.

Government Decentralization — In a 1 January speech carried by Tripoli radio, Col al-Qadhafi told Tripoli officials that all "general central institutions" have been transferred out of Tripoli, and groups such as the General People's Committee, the General Secretariat, and the General People's Congress may meet in any city or village. Tripoli municipality is now "independent and responsible for itself," he said, urging the city's officials to take advantage of their autonomy and use the "people's authority" to develop Tripoli.

Lebanon

Israeli Raid — Israeli helicopters attacked "terrorist" targets in southern Lebanon 4 January, scoring "accurate hits" on houses belonging to Hizballah members in the villages of Khirbat Silm and Qabrikhah, IDF radio reported. Jerusalem radio said the targets were "at the heart of population centers and disguised as buildings for the instruction of religion." Five people were injured in the attack on Qabrikhah, according to Beirut radio.

The Israeli action followed a 2 January attack by over 50 Hizballah fighters on a South Lebanese Army (SLA) post in Bra'shit, according to Jerusalem television, which said that six SLA men were killed in the clash. An Amal Movement statement broadcast by Beirut radio claimed that 15 SLA men were killed in the attack by "Islamic resistance groups." Four more SLA soldiers were killed 5 January by a roadside bomb explosion 5 km north of the Israeli border, according to Jerusalem radio.

Cyprus-Juniyah Shipping — The Israeli Navy prevented a Cypriot ship from sailing to Juniya 2 January because the ship's captain refused to hand over "terrorists" who were onboard, Jerusalem radio announced. Nicosia radio noted that Cyprus lodged a strong protest with Israel over the interception, while Voice of Lebanon radio reported that President Amin al-Jumayyil instructed Lebanese officials to begin international contacts on the issue. A Lebanese Forces statement cited by the Voice of Lebanon denied that Palestinian fighters have entered Lebanon via Juniya and accused Israel of imposing a "naval siege" on Lebanese Christians in order to pressure them into joining the camps war against the Palestinians. In another development, Jerusalem radio reported that Fatah has purchased four DC-8 aircraft to transport its fighters into Lebanon.

Camps War — The Voice of Lebanon reported further fighting in the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah area, stating that 5 people were killed and 25 injured 2-3 January. Nevertheless, the Iranian agency IRNA expressed hope that the relative calm in Maghdu shah and the arrival of another convoy of food and medicine in Al-Rashidiyah will prepare the way for implementing the Iranian-sponsored peace plan. Meanwhile, Tunis radio reported

that the Arab League mediation committee on the conflict has decided to move to Beirut and Damascus in light of "positive responses" received from the Lebanese and Syrian authorities.

Iran-Iraq War

An Iraqi military statement broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio announced an Iraqi air strike on Khark Island 2 January, and a communique broadcast by the radio noted another strike against the same target the following day. The communique also noted that Iraqi planes destroyed two helicopters on the ground at Masjed-e Soleyman air base and dealt a "destructive blow" to the pumping station at Gach Saran 3 January. IRNA claimed that five civilians were killed and six wounded in an air raid on a village in Gach Saran. Iraqi warplanes hit the Liberian tanker *Matterhorn* near the Iranian coast 4 January, according to Voice of the Masses radio. Nicosia radio identified the Cypriot tanker *Gallerie* as the target of a 2 January Iraqi raid.

ICO Summit Preparations

Kuwaiti Amir Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah received the Moroccan foreign minister who delivered a message from King Hassan II regarding the Islamic summit, KUNA reported 4

January. The agency also noted that over the weekend Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir delivered the amir's messages on the summit and bilateral relations to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Tehran radio cited UAE press reports that the ICO summit may be held in Pakistan because of Iran's strong objection to holding it in Kuwait.

Syria

A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry stated that reports of contacts between Syrian and Egyptian officials are "groundless," SANA noted 4 January.

Algeria

Algiers radio announced that security forces killed or wounded all seven members of a band of "outlaws" during a 3 January shootout in Larba District. The gang leader, Mostafa Bou Ali, was among four men killed.

FBIS**DAILY REPORT
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Message From King Husayn to 'Arafat Reported

JN021721 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT
2 Jan 86

[Text] Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has said that Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], head of the PLO Executive Committee, recently received a message from King Husayn of Jordan in reply to a message sent to him by Brother Abu 'Ammar on the situation of the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation and in their camps in Lebanon.

Brother Abu Jihad described the Jordanian king's message as positive. He said it affirmed Jordan's resolve to continue efforts to put an end to the camps tragedy in addition to confronting what is going on in the occupied Arab territories.

In a statement to the *Al-Nahar al-Arabi Wa al-Duwalli* magazine published in Paris today, Brother Abu Jihad expressed the hope that King Husayn's message would be a step toward normalizing Jordanian-Palestinian relations to create a brotherly atmosphere between the two sides. He affirmed the PLO is interested in a special and distinctive relationship with Jordan and in avoiding a rupture between the two sides as a result of political disagreements.

Egypt Said Seeking Mubarak-Husayn-'Arafat Summit

JN040902 Doha QNA in Arabic 0755 GMT 4 Jan 87

[Text] Kuwait, 4 Jan (QNA) — Press reports stated here today that intensive Egyptian contacts are underway to convene a tripartite Palestinian-Jordanian-Egyptian summit meeting on the sidelines of the Islamic summit conference scheduled to be held in Kuwait on 26 January. Kuwaiti *Al-Qabas* cited Palestinian sources in Cairo as saying that the message PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat sent to His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan thanking him for his stand on the refugee camps war had partly thawed the frozen relations between the PLO and Jordan and paved the way for the possibility of a Husayn-Mubarak-'Arafat summit meeting.

'Arafat Visits Camp, Delivers Addresses in Iraq

Speaks to Palestinian Forces

JN022053 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1815 GMT
2 Jan 87

[Text] Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has affirmed that various overt and covert enemies, agents, and conspirators thought for a while this nation would surrender and the Palestinian revolution would end, but a giant revolution has emerged inside and outside our occupied land. He explained that our hero people inside the occupied homeland, which are being subjected to the ugliest massacres and repression, are confronting the Zionist occupiers' tanks and their treacherous, cowardly bullets. Our people's children, women, students, workers, and peasants are confronting this Israeli army which is armed with the weapons of repression and crime. Our people in Lebanon and in the camps of challenge and steadfastness are teaching the

tools, the agents, and the conspirators lessons in resistance, challenge, and steadfastness.

In a speech addressed to the Palestinian forces in the Al-Aqsa Forces camp in Baghdad yesterday on the revolution's 22d anniversary, 'Arafat said: Our people inside our occupied land are staging massive demonstrations to express support for their brothers in southern Lebanon as well as for their brothers in Iraq. He also affirmed that the people, who are demonstrating and offering martyrs in Bi'r Zayt, the Balatah camp, Hebron, Gaza, Nabulus, and everywhere and in all areas of struggle and confrontation, will certainly achieve victory and that their revolution will continue until the flag of this revolution and the flag of our Arab nation fly over Jerusalem, the capital of our independent Palestinian state.

Abu 'Ammar also talked about the tripartite conspiracy aimed at destroying the temporary Palestinian presence in Lebanon to establish sectarian cantons, to deal a blow to and liquidate the Palestine question, and to end the glorious war of attrition by Palestinian fighters and Lebanese nationalists of the joint forces against the Israeli enemy in southern Lebanon.

Abu 'Ammar asked: Is this aggression a reward for our glorious steadfastness in Beirut in 1982? He said the goals which Israel's Sharon failed to achieve are being achieved by the Sharons of the Arabs in this region, adding they ignited more than one treacherous battle against the Palestinian camps in the past 3 years, the latest of which is still continuing.

He added: I would like to tell Zionist enemies Sharon and the Sharons of the Arabs: No. No one can achieve the goals of that evil conspiracy and that what is being planned by imperialism will not be the Arab nation's fate. I would also like to affirm that Palestine is the Palestinian people's homeland with Jerusalem as its capital. We will not accept any alternative. Therefore, everybody should understand that this conspiracy will not come about and that all the spies and the Zionized treacherous people will be thrown into the garbage can of history and this land will remain Arab. We will continue to adhere to our pledge. We will remain together until victory, God willing.

Abu 'Ammar, accompanied by Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, arrived in the Al-Aqsa Forces camp to open the Palestinian fighters' celebration of the 22d anniversary of the revolution. Abu 'Ammar and Abu Jihad were received by the Palestinian forces' commander in the Al-Aqsa Forces camp.

Syrian Opposition Rally

JN041013 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1930 GMT 3 Jan 87

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Jan (INA) — The National Alliance for the Liberation of Syria has organized a speech rally at the Al-Mustansiriyah University in solidarity with the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples in their confrontation of the onslaught by the Zionist entity, Syrian regime forces, and their agents in Lebanon. In a speech before the rally, Yasir 'Arafat said: We are justifiably proud to be part of this great nation whose eastern flank is

being defended by the Iraqi Army which is making every day a great day for our Arab nation.

'Arafat reiterated the support of the Palestinian people and revolution for the Iraqi Army and people until they achieve victory in the battle in which they are defending not only Iraqi territory but the entire Arab land. The PLO Executive Committee chairman noted the role of Hafiz al-Asad's regime in liquidating the national Lebanese movement and Palestinian resistance in Lebanon in collusion with U.S. imperialism.

The speech of the general secretariat of the National Alliance for the Liberation of Syria was then read. It affirmed that the victories of the Iraqi Army, the valor of the Palestinian people, and steadfastness of the Lebanese people revived the Arab masses' confidence in their great capabilities to confront all forms of aggression. The speech noted the crimes perpetrated by Hafiz al-Asad's regime in Tripoli against the Lebanese people as a result of which hundreds of women and children were killed. Dr 'Isa Sulayman, secretary general of the Teachers Union in Iraq, affirmed that what is being implemented in Lebanon is part of the vile conspiracy aimed at partitioning Lebanon into sectarian statelets and cantons and at liquidating the Palestine question.

Views Major Issues

JN041748 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 2 Jan 87 p 1

[By Dhikrayat Muhammad Hasan]

[Excerpts] Baghdad — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has expressed his thanks and appreciation to King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, for supporting the PLO. 'Arafat said that the stands of the custodian of the two holy mosques are invaluable, emphasizing the good offices King Fahd has exerted and is exerting for the Palestinian cause on all levels, particularly his support for the Arab resolutions that the Arab foreign ministers recently adopted to stop the shedding of Palestinian blood in the camps and the attacks on them. In an interview with *Al-Yawm*, Arafat said: We will never forget the great support the PLO has received from Saudi Arabia and the other Arab countries for halting the attacks on our camps and people in and outside the occupied territories. [passage omitted]

On the camps war, 'Arafat said: As a result of the camps war which is currently raging between Amal and the inhabitants of Palestinian camps, 4,000 have either been killed or wounded, 800,000 [as published] have been displaced, 3,500 have either been imprisoned or kidnapped, 4 small Palestinian camps have been wiped out, and 50 to 85 percent of the Sabra, Shatila, Burj al-Barajinah, and al-Rashidiyah camps have been destroyed. [passage omitted]

'Arafat said: So far 90 days have passed and the aggression continues. He added: The Amal Movement, the Lebanese Armies 1st and 6th Brigades, as well as the Israeli Air Force and artillery continue to attack the camps. [passage omitted]

On the state of affairs within the PLO, 'Arafat said that the battles our people are now waging, whether in the camps in Lebanon or in the occupied territories, have demonstrated how much the Palestinian masses rally around the PLO and its leaders. He added that these aggressions have made the Palestinian factions exert more efforts and enter into more dialogue to attain Palestinian unity.

On the Iraq-Iran war, 'Arafat said: While Iraq has responded to all the peace initiatives, the Iranian side continues to reject them. 'Arafat said that Iraq had also submitted peace initiatives which the Iranian side has also rejected. 'Arafat added: In view of all this and despite the fact that we participate in all the efforts to stop the bloodshed and achieve a cease-fire, we have announced more than once that we support Iraq in its defense of its territory against these successive Iranian aggressions, particularly since it is defending the Arab nation's eastern gate.

On the U.S. arms deal with Iran, 'Arafat said: This behavior by the United States did not surprise us. This is only the tip of the iceberg. What is hidden is far more serious. 'Arafat added that the major objective of the U.S. Administration is to continue fanning the fires of this war because the enemies of our Arab and Islamic nations are the only beneficiaries of this war, and that the perpetuation of this war will primarily serve our Zionist enemy. [passage omitted]

Salah Khalaf Says 'Arafat To Remain PLO Leader

JN021737 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Jan 87

[Text] Brother Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], member of the Fatah Central Committee, has affirmed there is no alternative to Palestine in any Arab country. He also announced that Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir Arafat] will remain the leader of the Palestinian revolution. In a festival held in Kuwait yesterday evening on the 22d anniversary of the Palestinian revolution, Brother Abu Iyad said the PLO will continue to exist and that 1987 will be the year of Palestinian unity. He referred to the unity of the Palestinian people in the camps war in Lebanon regardless of their political affiliations.

Brother Abu Iyad also affirmed the Palestinian people's stand alongside Kuwait against any Iranian threats and their support for Iraq. He said on the anniversary of their revolution, the sons of Palestine pledge to the Iraqi people and Army to stand alongside them against Iranian ambitions on Arab territory.

Spokesman Discusses Syrian Role in Tripoli

JN030849 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1815 GMT 2 Jan 87

[Statement by a Palestinian information spokesman — date, place not given]

[Text] Carrying out his big masters' orders, Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, a petty murderer and one of the conspirators whose hands are stained with the blood of the Syrian people, the Lebanese people, and the Palestinian people, made a ridiculous

statement to the Lebanese newspaper *Al-Nahar* on 1 January 1987 in which he tried to justify the massacres committed by the special forces, the tanks, and the intelligence agents of the Syrian regime in the city of Tripoli. This is the fourth massacre committed by the Syrian regime's forces in this martyred city during the past 4 years.

What is strange is that he was so insolent as to threaten the city of Sidon, which is being raided by Israeli planes and attacked by the Israeli Navy, with a new massacre being prepared by the Syrian regime and its leaders. This regime, which uses murderers such as Ghazi Kan'an, whose hands are stained with blood, will never be forgiven by history for their crimes as well as the crimes of their big and small masters. We would like to remind people that this petty murderer was in charge of intelligence in Hama during the Hama massacre. We defy the masters of this murderer, who are linked to various intelligence organs, to agree to set up an Arab committee to investigate the massacres and crimes which have exceeded all human concepts of crime. Thousands of women and children were killed or wounded in the brave city of Tripoli and entire areas of the city were either burned, looted, or destroyed.

This petty murderer and agent made a ridiculous statement which cannot convince even his criminal masters. We call on the Arab nation to set up such a committee to investigate these crimes and massacres. We wonder and also ask all the honest officers in the Syrian Army: How can some groups in the city control the city as claimed by the aforementioned agent murderer when more than two Syrian brigades are permanently stationed in the city? Are the leaders of the Syrian regime so unsure that their army will approve of their crimes that they assigned this task to their special forces which are known for their sectarian structure? The souls of the martyred children and women in Tripoli, the Palestinian camps, Hama, Palmyra, and Aleppo will continue to haunt these murderers until the end. Regarding Sidon, let these big and petty murderers know that it will continue to be inaccessible to them as it has been for the Israelis.

USSR Said Seeking to Normalize Syria-PLO Ties

JN041139 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBUT in Arabic
1 Jan 87 p 1

[Text] *Al-Ittihad* has learned that the Soviet leadership is currently exerting intensive efforts to have Syria normalize its relations with the PLO and to end the camps war.

Diplomatic sources told *Al-Ittihad* that two Soviet envoys had visited Damascus recently and met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. They informed him of the Soviet leadership's view concerning the need to achieve a reconciliation between Syria and the PLO under Yasir 'Arafat's leadership. *Al-Ittihad* also learned that Damascus informed PFLP Secretary General George Habash of the content of the talks between the Soviet envoys and the Syrian leadership. For his part, George Habash telephoned Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, in Baghdad and informed him of the content of the Soviet envoy's talks in Damascus.

Qaddumi Meets With Arab League Secretary General

JN032055 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1815 GMT
3 Jan 87

[Text] Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, met with Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi in Tunis last night. They reviewed the results of the efforts of the 7-man committee formed by the Arab foreign ministers during their emergency meeting in Tunis to end the current war against the Palestinian camps in Lebanon. The two sides also discussed the Palestinian people's conditions inside the occupied homeland and developments in the Palestine question.

Kuwaiti Officials Depart for Talks with ICO Head

LD041541 Kuwait KUNA in English 1239 GMT 4 Jan 87

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 4 (KUNA) — Kuwaiti Foreign Undersecretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahi left here Sunday for Jeddah (Saudi Arabia) for talks with the secretary general of the Organization of Islamic Conference Sharaf al-Din Pirzada.

Before departure, Al-Shahi told KUNA that his talks with Pirzada comes within the framework of efforts and consultations exerted by Kuwait to prepare for the fifth Islamic Summit conference scheduled to convene in Kuwait on Jan 26 and to ensure the success of the summit.

The foreign undersecretary was accompanied by the third secretary at the political department Gassan al-Zawawi.

Arab League Experts Meet With Organization Chiefs

LD041636 Kuwait KUNA in English 1330 GMT 4 Jan 87

[By Shamel Khairy]

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 4 (KUNA) — A high-level Arab economic team opened here Sunday intensified meetings with heads of 14 joint Arab organizations separately to evaluate the performance of each.

The Arab League-assigned team of experts led by Lebanese Education Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss will study with the Arab officials means of boosting the role of these institutions in achieving integration and cooperation between Arab countries.

The Arab League affiliate, the Arab Economic and Social Council, had formed a seven man financial ministerial committee during its latest meeting in Amman mid last year under the chairmanship of the Algerian finance minister and membership of finance and economy ministers of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Iraq, Morocco, and Palestine for that purpose.

The ministerial committee, for its part, assigned a team of experts headed by Dr. al-Huss grouping Dr. Hassan al-Ibrahim, Kuwait, Dr. 'Abd al-'Aziz Hijazi, Egypt, Dr. Muhammad al-Tawil, Saudi Arabia, Dr. Mohamed al-Nahli, Algeria, Dr. Muhammad 'Aziz Shukri, Syria and Dr. Hana Rezuki al-Sayigh, Iraq.

The team started its activities with an one-hour expanded meeting grouping all 14 heads of pan-Arab organizations during which they reviewed all obstacles facing march of joint Arab endeavor and means of overcoming them.

Immediately following that meeting, the team started separate sessions with Arab officials that are scheduled to end by Monday evening.

The team met so far with chairmen of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization Dr. Mohaiuldin [name as received] Sabir, Arab Organization for Administrative Sciences Dr. Nasir al-Sayigh and the Arab Labor Organization Dr. al-Hashemi al-Banani.

Al-Huss told KUNA that joint Arab action was passing through "a critical stage due to the prevailing Arab world situation and the money shortages suffered by specialized Arab organizations as a result of non-payment of some member Arab countries of financial contributions due to various reasons."

He warned that problem of the non-payment of financial commitments is very acute and is obstructing joint Arab action and its development.

The Lebanese official expressed hopes that the Arab organizations would overcome their financial problems and that member countries would pay their dues.

Dr. al-Huss did not rule out the impact of inter-Arab political differences on the march of joint Arab action but expressed the opinion that it carries an indirect effect.

He called, however, for keeping the joint Arab organizations away from repercussions of political currents that are engulfing the Arab world.

The deteriorating Arab political situation double "our determination to confront challenges in a bid to save Arab endeavor from these negative repercussions," Al-Huss elaborated.

Asked whether there was an intention to merge two or more joint Arab organizations, Dr. al-Huss said that "We do not have any previously planned proposals but we target drafting a work plan to be tabled with the Economic and Social Council for bolstering joint Arab endeavor."

Dr. al-Huss stressed, meanwhile, that the majority of the Arab organizations have played a positive role each in its area of speciality that "no one can deny."

The team of experts will continue meeting separately this evening with the chairmen of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development, Arab Center for Studies on Arid Zones, Arab Organization for Industrial Development, Arab Organization for Standardization and Measurements, Arab Organization for Tourism and the Arab Organization for Social Defense Against Crime.

The team will meet tomorrow with chairmen of the Arab Interior Ministers Council, Arab Academy for Marine Transport, Arab Telecommunications Union, Civil Aviation Council for the Arab Countries and the Arab Postal Union.

On Tuesday, the experts will meet to review the outcome of their meetings and to determine future steps.

KUWAIT

New Chief of Army General Staff Appointed

LD041902 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 4 JAN 87

[Excerpts] The Council of Ministers held its weekly session this morning under the chairmanship of His Highness the Emir Apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah. The minister of state for cabinet affairs, Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rashid, announced after the meeting: [passage omitted]

The minister of state for cabinet affairs said that the council took cognizance of the issued Amiri decree promoting Brigadier Mazayad 'Abd al-Rahman al-Sani' to the rank of major general and his appointment as chief of the Army General Staff. [passage omitted]

Morocco's Filali Arrives With Message for Amir

LD032033 Kuwait KUNA in English 1607 GMT 3 Jan 87

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 3 (KUNA) — Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali arrived here tonight on a visit to Kuwait with a message from King Hassan II to H.H. the Amir. He was received on arrival by State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashid al-Rashid and Moroccan Ambassador to Kuwait Mohamed Naciri.

Amir Receives Filali

LD041155 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1000 GMT 4 Jan 87

[Text] At 1000 Today the amir of Kuwait received the foreign minister of the fraternal Moroccan kingdom, Abdellatif Filali, who conveyed a message from King Hassan II. The audience was attended by the Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs, Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rashid, and the Moroccan ambassador to Kuwait.

It is believed that the message concerns the Islamic summit conference scheduled to be held in Kuwait on 26 January. The Moroccan minister is due to end his brief visit to Kuwait, which he began last night, later today.

Filali Departs With Message

LD041859 Kuwait KUNA in English 1550 GMT 4 Jan 87

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 4 (KUNA) — Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali said here Sunday that he is carrying a reply message from H.H. the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad to King Hassan II of Morocco. In a departure statement Filali said that the Moroccan monarch's message which he delivered to Shaykh Jabir dealt with Arab and Islamic developments in light of the fifth Islamic Summit Conference scheduled to convene in Kuwait on Jan 26.

The Moroccan official expressed pleasure for visiting Kuwait and said that he listened to the views of H.H. the amir on the Arab

and Islamic developments and bilateral relations which he promised to convey to King Hassan II when he returns home. Filali said that his country will attend the fifth Islamic Summit but will not table any working paper to the conference. The Moroccan minister who arrived here last night and was received by the amir today, was seen off at the airport by Minister of State For Cabinet Affairs Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rashid and a number of senior officials.

Foreign Minister Returns from Baghdad, Damascus

LD041459 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1402 GMT 4 Jan 87

[Summary] Kuwait, 4 Jan (KUNA) — Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned home this afternoon after two short visits to Damascus and Baghdad.

He told newsmen that he had carried letters from the amir to President Hafiz al-Asad and President Saddam Husayn on the Arab and Islamic situation at large and on relations between the two countries. He said: "I found understanding and support for what the amir is seeking: The cooperation of all to overcome obstacles concerning Arab and Islamic issues."

Soviet Ambassador Cited on Relations

LD041103 Kuwait KUNA in English 0920 GMT 4 Jan 87

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 4 (KUNA) — Soviet Ambassador to Kuwait Ernest Zverev said in an interview published here Sunday his country highly values Kuwait's contribution to efforts aimed at consolidating world peace. He said links between Kuwait and the Soviet Union were characterized with cooperation, friendship and mutual respect and noted that the two countries held identical views on a wide range of foreign policy affairs.

The ambassador, who assumed the post here last November, said Moscow is [word indistinct] To promote economic ties between the two countries through trade and exchanges in cultural, scientific and educational areas. He, meanwhile, reiterated Moscow's desire to cement relations with the Arab Gulf countries, "primarily with Saudi Arabia."

He recalled that the Soviet Union had made several attempts to consolidate such ties and stressed that Moscow is particularly interested in exchanging diplomatic representation with the Saudi kingdom and to create trade and economic links between the two countries.

"It's no secret that we have made contacts through diplomatic channels like the meeting of our ambassadors in the British capital... and we also have contacts with Saudi ambassadors in other world capitals," Zverev added. He described the upcoming Islamic summit as a "world event" and reiterated Moscow's call for an immediate settlement to the Gulf war.

KUWAIT TIMES on Najibullah Cease-Fire Call
LD041113 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0734 GMT 4 Jan 87

[Text] Kuwait, 4 Jan (KUNA) — The English-language Kuwaiti newspaper *Kuwait Times* today described the call made by Afghan President Najibullah to the opposition groups in his country to put an end to the civil war and form a government of national unity as "an initiative worth considering." The paper directly deplored the official U.S. stance that encourages the continuation of the war. The paper wrote: "Washington is not facing any adverse pressures because of that war, for it can easily bear the cost in dollars and arms of continuing it."

The paper pointed out that the United States has no common borders with Afghanistan such as it has with Nicaragua, for example, [as received] and American lives are not a factor in a war that has been raging for years in that Asian Muslim country. The paper affirmed that the question of providing funds to fan the war does not pose a problem for Washington.

Quoting sources described as "independent and rational," the *Kuwait Times* said that the war in Afghanistan costs the U.S. taxpayer about 480 million. [time period not specified]. By spending this money, the paper said, the United States seeks to embroil the Soviet Union in the quagmire of the Afghan war, a war which is costly in men and materials.

The paper warned, though, that the negative repercussions of this war were no longer confined to the USSR and its ally, the ruling regime in Kabul, but have gone beyond that to Pakistan, which is considered a friend of the United States. This is because of the social and economic situation created by the presence of the Afghan Mujahidin and refugees on its territory.

The paper called on the United States and the USSR, our of consideration for their respective friends, to reach an agreement that would end this war.

PDRY

Foreign Minister Leaves For Visit to Iran
EA032038 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 3 Jan 87

[Text] Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister, left Aden this morning for Tehran on a visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran which will last several days. In a statement to *Aden News Agency*, the brother foreign minister said that he had a letter from Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, for his brother president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 'Ali Khamene'i, on bilateral relations and other relevant issues as well as developments in the region. He said that he would be holding talks with the Iranian foreign minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, on bilateral issues. He was seen off by Brothers Shayi Muhsin, deputy foreign minister, and a number of officials from the ministry in addition to the Iranian ambassador to Aden.

Defense Minister Inaugurates Military Training
EA032308 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 3 Jan 87

[Text] Brother Brigadier Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad, candidate member of the Political Bureau and minister of defense, this morning inaugurated the first phase of combat training and political preparation of the Armed Forces. To mark the occasion, a number of speeches were delivered and military displays were staged by the Air Force, the Air Defense Force, the General Staff Command and the Naval forces. Attending these activities were Major Majid Murshid Sayf, the first deputy chief of the political directorate, and a number of commanders of the military forces, together with large numbers of officers and men.

The defense minister gave an important speech on this occasion to all sectors, forces and corps of the brave Armed Forces, which he began by conveying the greetings of the collective leadership of the YSP to all members of the Armed Forces, Peoples Militia and General Reserve as well as all those concerned with the defense of the revolution and homeland. He wished them further successes and victories throughout the dear Yemeni homeland in the line of their great and sacred duty, the duty of defending the party line, the government of the revolution and the sovereignty of the dear Yemeni homeland.

In his speech, he also reviewed the successes achieved during the training year 1986, referring to the prominent and heroic role played by our Armed Forces in resisting and foiling the abortive and bloody 13th January coup conspiracy implemented by traitors and plotters with the aim of destroying the gains of the revolution and deviating from the socialist path. He praised their perseverance and devoted efforts to overcome the effects of the conspiracy and spoke of the great responsibility entrusted by the party to our Armed Forces, namely, to maintain their full alertness and the peak of combat and political readiness to defend the sovereignty of the homeland and its honor.

On the level achieved by our Armed Forces today, he said: As we inaugurate a new training year, we are setting ourselves new combat and political tasks, whereby we can in the name of all combatants emphasize that our Armed Forces have reached a high combat level and are fully prepared to carry out any tasks entrusted to them by the YSP leadership. We pledge in the name of all our combatants to be equal to the tasks before us. He said it was necessary to study very deeply the bitter experience of our revolution during the conspiracy and carefully to ponder the extent of the sabotage activity and its objectives, including the objectives of the enemies of the Yemeni revolution aimed at disrupting the national unity of our people. He stressed the need for cohesion between all toiling groups in our country which had a real interest in the revolution and to watch out for the evil goals of our enemies who aim at dividing the sons of our people. We have the same interests and objectives, for we are united in the trenches of the defense of the revolution and the party line.

He reiterated that the building up and arming of our Armed Forces were our party's major concern. They are today ready for defense, and cannot and will not be used to interfere in the internal affairs of others or to threaten anyone's security or stability. He said that this year should be a year of new successes

and victories, a year fit to welcome the party's general congress and the 20th anniversary of national independence. He also praised the role played by the Soviet experts and advisers who had exemplified through their work and devotion the nobility and sincere internationalist mission of their great Communist Party.

There were also speeches by officers, NCO's, soldiers and recruits, all of whom stressed their determination to implement creatively and successfully the tasks and duties assigned to them and to be conscious of their work, and preserve and maintain public assets as well as curbing unnecessary expenditure, strengthening military discipline and consciousness and heightening combat readiness [words indistinct].

To mark the same occasion, Colonel Haytham Qasim Tahir, member of the Central Committee, first deputy defense minister and Chief of the General Staff, also attended activities in inaugurating the 1987 training year at the Salah al-Din garrison and the western sector. He made a speech on the occasion in which he congratulated the Armed Forces combatants and welcomed the new year, bidding farewell to the 1986 training year, the year of victory over the 13th January abortive conspiracy which our Armed Forces, the masses of the people and the defense and security establishments played a major role in foiling, thereby recording a new page of history to be added to other heroic and immortal deeds of our Armed Forces.

He said through the experience of the past year and in accordance with the strategy of the party concerning the defense issue, our Armed Forces were faced with and immense and complex combat and political tasks requiring maximum efforts to implement the slogan of the new training year of 1987: The regular Army above all. Units participating in the rallies gave spectacular military displays.

It is worth noting that all units of the Armed Forces held similar rallies. Brother Col Muhammad Haytham, member of the Central Committee and deputy chief of general staff, inaugurated the first training phase of 1987 in units of the eastern sector. Col Muthanna Askar, member of the Central Committee and deputy chief of general staff, inaugurated the phase in units of the People's Militia. Col Dr Husayn 'Ali Hasan inaugurated the first phase of training in units of the central sector.

SAUDI ARABIA

Budget Philosophy Based on 'Objective Facts'

LD041515 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0915 GMT 1 Jan 87

[Text] Riyadh, 1 Jan (SPA) — The SPA economic affairs editor writes that the figures of the state general budget for 1986-87 reveal important thought-provoking facts.

The people of The Kingdom consider themselves to be part of this world, and to be affected by everything that influences the rest of the peoples and countries of the world. Therefore, the economic situation resulting from the conditions prevailing in the international oil market have left their mark, and brought about many changes that have led to a big decline in revenue. Yet the Kingdom continues, under the leadership of His Majesty, may

God preserve him, its efforts at home and abroad to prevent a collapse of the world economy and to help it recover its equilibrium following a crises which had reached a dangerous level. Extensive efforts inside and outside of OPEC were accompanied by some positive indicators that we sincerely hope will lead to a real stabilization of oil prices and production levels, a matter which guarantees just incomes that will guarantee continued development and bring about prosperity for the peoples of the world.

We must, however, admit that those conditions were, to a great extent, reflected in the level of income, as the Kingdom has witnessed a big decline in its revenues in recent years as a result of those conditions and changes. And when we examine this year's budget, the following facts must be grasped:

1. The Kingdom's philosophy is based on objective facts and defined goals aimed at maintaining development programs at their natural rates, irrespective of the obstacles, because the Kingdom and its leadership, represented by King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, believes that this represents an adherence to continuing action, to confronting these conditions by scientific methods instead of capitulating, shrinking, or retreating from them as a result of the changing conditions. The realization that the continuation of the development process is being done from the reserves will make the organs of the state and all citizens in all walks of life redouble their efforts to fill the gap [in the reserves], raise productivity, work hard, reduce costs, and prioritizing our work.

2. Despite the difficult and intricate economic conditions, the Kingdom did not resort to loans, as some others did, to finance its projects. Instead, it withdrew part of its strategic assets. Indeed, it was not content with only doing this, but went even further to plan for the creation of a balance in the shortest possible time. In this context, all of the Kingdom's efforts are directed toward raising the levels of contribution from non-governmental sectors for development, and creating new sources of national income through agriculture, industry, and prospecting for mineral wealth.

Thus the remedy will be continuous and local, and in line with purely national policies. This, ipso facto, constitutes a significant achievement in preserving the respect and effectiveness of the state's decisions at the world level.

3. The resort to the reserves to bridge the gap between income and expenditure was not the result of a haphazard decision: It was a measure based on an objective and careful study of the potential for increasing revenue after an improvement in the oil market and a rise in the price of oil — which will revive the world economy, of which we are a part — following the huge drop in our revenue that amounted to 80 percent from the 1980-81 budget to the 1986-87 budget. Our oil revenue dropped from 322.5 billion rials in the 1980-81 fiscal year to 178 billion rials in the 1981-82 fiscal year. The drop continued until it reached 61.2 billion rials in the 1984-85 fiscal year.

This means a drop in oil revenue for the 1986-87 fiscal year of 55.6 percent, compared to 87.6 percent in 1980-81 fiscal year.

The OPEC member-nations recent agreement in Geneva on the Kingdom's proposal to fix the price of a barrel of oil at \$18, followed by an increase in price of oil which has now reached \$17.30 per barrel, indicates that the revenue from oil will shortly improve, particularly as the demand for oil will increase immensely with the advent of winter and an improvement of world economic conditions, and since the agreement was welcomed by oil-producing countries inside and outside OPEC as well as by the consumer countries.

All these factors affirm that the world will witness greater prosperity, and that with God's help, the Kingdom will be able to narrow the gap between revenue and expenditure within a few years, and thereby preserve a normal rate of growth, particularly as the rationalization of the expenditure will effectively help to prevent any failure in completing the program and projects and contribute to the realization of a desired balance, God willing.

4. The expenditures on the vital sectors of the development plan have been kept at higher levels in comparison with the prevailing circumstances.

Thus, the allocation of 23,725,000 riyals for education, 11,490,000 riyals for the social development, 4.3 billion riyals for basic equipment, 8 billion riyals for municipal services, 11,934,000,000 riyals for transport and communications, and 8,439,000,000 riyals for the development of economic resources — all this means the continuation of the process of development and growth and giving these vital sectors absolute priority in government expenditure on the ground that these sectors are closely connected to the welfare and stability of the citizens and provide them with high standards of living and prosperity, thereby enabling them to be productive through a series of ongoing material and moral services that also provides them with unlimited care.

If we add to what has been said, the additional expenditures on local subsidies, whether in agricultural, electrical requirements, social security, athletic clubs, private schools, food, imported fodder, or the purchase of locally-produced wheat, means that the state has endeavored not to undermine the necessities of the daily life but to augment them.

5. The world today, with all its crises and dangers, has imposed a new concept: the principle of "strength for construction." When the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia attaches more importance to the military and security sectors, allocating the sum of 60,752,000,000 riyals, it is because Saudi Arabia is pursuing its march to build up its strength for the security and stability of our citizens, to provide enough protection for the achievements of our country and citizens and thus enable all groups and sectors to work in peace and security and thereby ensure efficient production and continuous construction. For work in a secure environment is possible and production in the context of stability becomes natural so long as the Kingdom has a protective shield: its sons, and its defensive potentials.

We are a state of construction, of peace, stability and tolerance. We believe that the real power of the homeland can be realized in the linkage of its strengths and potentials, the securing of its sovereignty, the defense of its land, airspace, and water, and that

of its citizens. This is what we are continuously doing, together with our desire to have a state respected by all and with which all cooperate.

These facts, reflected by the figures of the new budget, constitute a mature experience for a country that knows where it is going and tries to face up to its problems with the action and planning they merit. This is why we must look to the future with optimism and peace of mind — looking forward to the cooperation of the sons of this homeland and their understanding of the nature of this phase; looking forward also for more productive zeal to guarantee the continuity of our march in the direction planned for it by our leader, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques and his crown prince. God is with us; he is the best master and best protector.

Prince on State Budget, Islamic Meeting
LD042341 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic
 2000 GMT 4 Jan 87

[Excerpts] His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, has described the state budget of the financial year 1407-1408 [1987] as as one of prosperity and generosity. [passage omitted]

Concerning the financing of the difference in this year's budget between expenditures and revenues, His Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz said that there were many choices before the state: increasing taxes, or cancelling the aid that benefits the citizens, or resorting to foreign or internal loans — which is not being considered — or resorting to using part of its general reserves. His highness added that the latter choice was the easiest. He continued, saying that there are perhaps some people who think that the state's general reserves should not be touched; but state officials, under the leadership of the custodian of the two holy mosques — may God protect him — consider this choice to be the best. He continued, saying we hope that God almighty will ensure that state revenues this year will cover what was taken from the general reserves. This could be done in a number of ways, from industrial and agricultural products to the export of oil and its derivatives. This is what we ask of God almighty.

Asked about the importance of the next Islamic summit conference, to be held in Kuwait on 26 January, and the leading role played by the kingdom in closing the ranks of Muslims, His Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz said: I believe the Islamic summit speaks for itself and that all of us must wait for what will come from it. God willing, it will be the outset of good and we hope that God almighty will grant success to the leaders of the Islamic nation for the welfare of that nation and its aspirations.

Asked about news agency reports of Saudi efforts to hold an Arab summit during the next Islamic summit conference, his highness said: I believe that the kingdom wants to close Arab ranks; but I do not believe that there are efforts underway to hold an Arab summit as part of the Islamic summit.

Moroccan Minister Filali Arrives in Riyadh*LD041932 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1753 GMT 4 Jan 87*

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 4 Jan (SPA) — His Excellency the Moroccan foreign minister, Abdellatif Filali arrived in Riyadh this evening. [passage omitted]

UAE**Foreign Minister Meets With Iran's Lavasani***JN041956 Doha QNA in Arabic 1850 GMT 4 Jan 87*

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 4 Jan (QNA) — Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister for foreign affairs, today met with Hosayn Lavasani, director general of political affairs at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, currently visiting the UAE. During the meeting, they reviewed the current developments in the region, especially the developments of the Iraq-Iran war, as well as issues related to the Islamic summit conference scheduled to be convened in Kuwait on 26 January.

The Iranian official arrived in Abu Dhabi this morning on a 2-day visit to the UAE as part of a tour of a number of countries in the region to explain his country's views on the Islamic summit conference. [passage omitted]

President Receives Envoy*JN051013 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0900 GMT 5 Jan 87*

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 5 Jan (WAKH) — UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has received a message from Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i on the current developments in the region and bilateral relations. Mohamed Hoseyn Lavasani, director general of political affairs at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, conveyed the message when the president received him here today. [passage omitted]

YAR**President Reports on Unity, Foreign Policy***JN041115 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Jan 87*

[Excerpts] The first ordinary session of the General People's Congress [GPC] Standing Committee for the second electoral stage began at the headquarters of the GPC Secretariat this morning under brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, Armed Forces commander in chief, and GPC secretary general. Following the opening of the session in the name of God and the people by the brother secretary general, the minutes of the previous procedural session of the Standing Committee were read.

The Standing Committee members then listened to a report submitted by the brother GPC secretary general in which he expressed satisfaction that the first session had begun while our people are scoring great achievements in their march toward democracy and development. [passage omitted]

On unity efforts, the GPC secretary general stressed, in his report, that the restoration of Yemeni unity remains our major strategic objective which we cannot treat lightly and whose attainment we cannot give up. In his report, the GPC secretary general said: In this respect, we emphasize that we are proceeding toward the restoration of unity through peaceful and democratic means and in light of the agreements and declarations between the leaders of the two parts of Yemen. Unity for us is our fate and destiny. It is the dream of all the Yemeni people and the mainstay of comprehensive Arab unity which is the dream of all the Arabs. Our efforts to attain national unity in the southern part of the homeland and our attempts to contain the regrettable incidents in the southern part since the ill-omened 13 January and secure the repatriation of those who left stem from our eagerness to restore Yemeni unity.

On the level of political activities and foreign relations, the report explained that political action in the sphere of foreign relations has witnessed vital activity. This demonstrates the wide scope of our relations and the interaction between the GPC and political organizations in fraternal and friendly countries within the framework of the resolutions and recommendations adopted by the third GPC congress with respect to the establishment of and invigorating relations with the various organizations in fraternal and friendly countries in a manner that serves our country's interests and trends and expands the scope of the GPC's relations with these organizations. In light of this, our country has welcomed ranking official and party delegations which had participated in the 24th revolution anniversary, particularly the delegation of fraternal Saudi Arabia under Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, first deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard; the PLO delegation under PLO Executive Committee Chairman brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat; and ranking military and state delegations from our southern part of the homeland; as well as delegations from several fraternal and friendly countries. In his report, the GPC secretary general said: There is no doubt that this effective role in international politics is being daily enhanced by the growing national achievements. The successes our people have scored in all domestic fields are closely linked to the development of our country's foreign relations which are based on the principle of nonalignment and respect of international conventions.

On our country's relations with GCC countries, the brother GPC secretary general stressed, in his report to the first ordinary session of the GPC Standing Committee, that our country's relations with the brothers in the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf are distinctive and unique. These relations are also experiencing noticeable development and joint cooperation in all fields. The GPC secretary general added: We are fully confident that the near future will witness further development of these relations, and cooperation committees and councils between our country and GCC countries will also witness vital activities for the attainment of the tasks with which they have been entrusted to entrench the close relations and common bonds.

On Arab solidarity and current Arab causes, the report said: While we are deeply pained at the state of division and differences which permeate the atmosphere of our Arab nation this will not prevent us from persistently and diligently working to clear the Arab atmosphere and achieve the maximum level of

Arab solidarity for overcoming this painful state of affairs. We believe that bypassing this state of affairs can only be achieved through accord, dialogue, and the elimination of differences and tackling them with sincerity and a mature awareness of the magnitude of the perils that endanger the same Arab fate in all the Arab countries.

Hence, I affirm that our country, based on its firm policy and pan-Arab and Islamic affiliation, will always be a firm and true supporter of all the just Arab causes, especially the central Arab issue, the Palestine question. We will not hesitate in extending all support within our country's capability to the Palestinian revolution led by the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole, legitimate representative.

Regarding the Iraq-Iran war, the report indicated that the intensive work to end the Iraq-Iran war which has entered its seventh year is a religious task necessitated by affiliation to the one religion and an urgent popular demand in the Arab and Islamic arenas to spare the lives of the sons of the two Muslim neighbors and their capabilities which are being destroyed. We hope that the brothers in Iran will respond to Islamic efforts aimed at ending this war just as the brothers in fraternal Iraq had done. This is because no one will benefit from the continuation of this war except the Zionist entity and the enemies of the Arab and Islamic nations.

Regarding the bloody events and situation in fraternal Lebanon, the report affirmed that it is the duty of everyone of our brothers in Lebanon to rise to the level of the challenges facing our Arab nation. They should endeavor to strengthen national unity, stand united against the Zionist enemy, and confront all the aggressions and conspiracies threatening our Arab nation and aiming at liquidating the Palestinian revolution.

The GPC secretary general concluded his report by saying: If we considered defining the method of political action to implement the national charter a result of the conviction of the importance of strengthening national unity through the unity ideology and political action, then we are all called upon to rise with political action to an advanced stage through which all actions and activities translate all the resolutions and recommendations of the sixth GPC in accordance with the requirements of the current stage and the task of political action. This is in order to enable us to achieve further development and progress and entrench this in a democratic, sound, and civilized manner within the GPC and its various organs. We are all called upon, leadership and people, to be committed at all levels to preserving the charter and translating its objectives and aims into a living reality practiced in all our actions in letter and spirit on the basis that the national charter is the path of our nation to reinforce national unity, preserve all the popular development and democratic achievements, and build the advanced, revolutionary, and prosperous society.

The Standing Committee afterward reviewed the agenda of this session and approved it. It also began a discussion of the topics on the agenda.

Salih Interviewed on Relations With PDRY

JN041712 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 4 Jan 87

[Interview with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih by Lebanese magazine *Al-Shira* — date and place not given]

[Excerpt][passage omitted][*Al-Shira*] North Yemen has been a model of stability in the past 7 years. Has it been affected by what happened in Aden a year ago?

[Salih] We view what happened in the southern part of the homeland a year ago as an internal affair. What happens in the south reflects on the north and vice versa because we are one people. What happened in the southern part increased the burdens on the northern part as a result of a continuous flow of people from the south to the north, which strains educational and health services. In any case, we feel that what we are providing is a duty dictated by our national responsibilities to our people in the northern and southern parts of the homeland.

[*Al-Shira*] Does the presence of this number of southerners in the north politically affect your relations with Aden?

[Salih] We do not think it does. We consider it a duty to play host to the groups emigrating from the southern part, particularly as they have done nothing to harm our brethren there. We assume that there should be an appreciation of the burden borne by the north as a consequence of the emigration.

[*Al-Shira*] There has been talk of infiltration into the south and arrests and trials.

[Salih] We cannot confirm this. There may have been a few cases of infiltration. Obviously, the aim is to spread groundless propaganda.

[*Al-Shira*] Does this reported infiltration stand in the way of a visit to the north by Chairman Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas?

[Salih] Not at all. We welcome an exchange of visits. We call upon our brethren in the south to resolve their differences. There is no problem between the north and the south. The problem only concerns the southern part of the homeland. It is incumbent upon us to use our good offices with both sides to the dispute to reconcile them.

[*Al-Shira*] Does the presence of former President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad in the north affect your relations with the southern part of the homeland?

[Salih] As far as we are concerned, 'Ali Nasir Muhammad is staying in his homeland. There is no difference between the northern and southern parts of the homeland. His stay here is nothing secret. Our brethren in the south know this. They also know that we have large camps housing southerners who came here following the incidents [of 13 January]. Despite claims by media organs in the southern part that the evacuees are staying here against their will, we invited our brethren there, including Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas and [YSP Secretary General] 'Ali Salim al-Bid, over to meet with the camp residents and talk them

into returning. We are ready to help in this regard and in transporting them to the southern part if they so wish. But we cannot force them to return while they fear for their safety or, alternatively, tell them to go back because we will not accept their presence in their homeland. This just doesn't make sense.

[*Al-Shira*] How did they respond to your invitation?

[Salih] You can ask them.

[*Al-Shira*] How do you react to their call that 'Ali Nasir Muhammad be expelled from the northern part of the homeland?

[Salih] They know that the northern and southern parts make one homeland. 'Ali Nasir Muhammad lives in his homeland just like any other citizen does. No citizen has ever been expelled from his homeland.

[*Al-Shira*] You have always called for a reconciliation between the two factions of the YSP. What, in your opinion, is the barrier to this?

[Salih] We have urged a reconciliation. We do not know the reasons behind their failure to respond. Perhaps you can ask them.

[*Al-Shira*] Do they include practical measures to achieve reconciliation?

[Salih] More than one proposal.

[*Al-Shira*] Do you approve of a national meeting in Sanaa?

[Salih] We approve of such a meeting, whether in Sanaa or any place else. We are prepared to promote such an effort.

[*Al-Shira*] Who, in your opinion, stands in the way of such a national conference?

[Salih] 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and his associates have been responsive to all the efforts. But we do not know why our brethren in the south have not been so responsive.

[*Al-Shira*] Would you attribute this to outside political pressures?

[Salih] You can ask them.

[*Al-Shira*] As unionists who have always called for unity between the northern and southern parts of Yemen, suppose you propose a union as a solution to the existing problems.

[Salih] We do not believe in proposing unity only in times of crisis. We are for Yemeni unity under all circumstances, it being a popular demand and a strategic objective of the Yemeni revolution. We aim to attain unity peacefully and democratically in the interest of the Yemeni people in the northern and southern parts of the homeland. Our calls for unity are not posturing. We pursue this goal with single-minded determination. [passage omitted]

'Abd al-Majid Outlines Nation's Foreign Policy
NC041903 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1543 GMT 4 Jan 87

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jan (MENA) — Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has emphasized that Egypt views an international peace conference, through which concerned parties in the region can hold negotiations, as the only way to attain a lasting and comprehensive peace, particularly as the then-Israeli prime minister committed himself in Alexandria in September 1986 to an agreement in principle to hold such a conference.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said Egypt believes any attempt to evade this commitment would be a setback for the path to peace.

In a statement delivered this evening to the Consultative Council's Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee, the foreign minister noted that the quest for a settlement of the Palestinian issue within an international peace conference must lead to direct negotiations among the parties concerned.

Concerning the formation of a preparatory committee for the international conference, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said Egypt's position, as put forward by President Husni Mubarak, is that the best framework for establishing this committee is to include the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, or any other framework accepted by the parties concerned.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid asserted that without Jordanian-Palestinian rapprochement, no progress can be made toward peace. He added that Egypt is working intensively to bring about such a rapprochement within the framework of the 1985 agreement, particularly as the continued estrangement can only impede an international conference and result in the deterioration of the situation in the occupied territories.

The foreign minister said Western European leaders had fully understood the Egyptian viewpoint, which has encouraged Egypt to urge them to make complementary efforts to convince the United States of the correctness of Egyptian policy and to ease U.S. fears of the international conference. A precedent for such a conference was set in Geneva in 1973 when a meeting was held under UN auspices.

Regarding the Arab situation, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid affirmed Egypt's Arab character and its commitment to Arab goals within an overall Arab strategic framework.

The foreign minister voiced Egyptian solidarity with the Arab Gulf countries vis-a-vis the threats to their security, particularly in view of Kuwait's and the UAE's recent experiences. He noted Egypt reasserts the link between Egyptian national security and Arab national security, particularly as concerns the Gulf.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said Egypt has supported Iraq in its defense of its national territory, while at the same time urging a peaceful settlement to the Iraq-Iran conflict.

He added Egypt has denounced the repressive and arbitrary measures adopted by Israel in the occupied Arab territories and

has demanded observance of human rights in those territories and improved conditions for those living under occupation there.

The foreign minister said that with regard to Lebanon, Egypt has repeatedly asked it be left alone, urging the various forces in that country to heal the breach among themselves and attain harmony.

He added Egypt reiterates that Arab solidarity and closed Arab ranks are guaranteed to halt the current deterioration of conditions in the area and to alleviate the backwardness and divisions that have led other countries to dismiss Arab actions and interests.

Regarding Egyptian-Sudanese relations, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid describes these as eternal and deep-rooted, adding that Egypt's policy arises from the principles of full respect for the Sudanese people and appreciation for their democratically elected government. He noted that Egypt welcomes the democratic march of the Sudanese people.

The foreign minister reiterated Egypt's interest in preserving Sudan's unity, as desired by its sons in the north and south. He added Egypt will work to achieve reconciliation between Sudan and its neighbors, particularly Ethiopia, with whom Egypt enjoys good fraternal ties.

The foreign minister's statement also addressed Egypt's relations with Islamic countries, noting that its ties with the Islamic world are dictated by the nature of the religious Egyptian people, who are devout in their religious practices. Hence, Egypt enjoys active relations with fraternal Islamic countries.

The foreign minister added that Egypt is currently preparing for effective and positive participation in the Islamic Conference, slated to be held in Kuwait on 26 January.

On the subject of Africa, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said Egypt's sacred ties with Africa are based on the strength of history and geography and on the Nile River, which extends deep inside the African continent. The foreign minister reiterated Egypt's support for Namibia's independence and for strengthening liberation movements in Africa to eliminate vestiges of colonialism.

Touching on Egyptian-U.S. relations, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister reaffirmed the importance of the United States' primary role in the Middle East peace process, both as a superpower and in view of its special relations with Israel. He also reaffirmed the significance of the U.S. role in consolidating Egypt's defensive capability. Dr 'Abd al-Majid went on to express Egypt's eagerness to promote continuously its special relations with the United States.

As for Egyptian-Soviet relations, the foreign minister noted that these are improving, from good to better, within the context of mutual respect for the sovereignty of each country, nonintervention in domestic affairs, acknowledgement of Egypt's leading political role, and recognition of the Soviet role as a superpower.

Commenting on Egyptian-Israeli ties, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said these are developing well after the signing of the arbitral

compromis agreement on Tabah. He added Egypt is continuously urging Israel to improve living conditions for the inhabitants of the occupied Arab territories and to accept peace initiatives and the ongoing efforts to convene the international conference.

Commentary Questions Recent Shamir Statement
NC041602 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT
 4 Jan 87

[Commentary by Bahiy al-Din Shu'ayb: "Whither Peace in the Middle East?"]

[Text] It was neither strange nor remarkable that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir should begin 1987 by announcing his desire to visit Amman to hold direct negotiations with King Husayn of Jordan on the prospects of attaining peace. The Israeli prime minister wants to kill several birds with one stone, exploiting the circumstances and contradictions seething in the Middle East. In the first place, the Israeli prime minister knows the Jordanian king rejects in principle direct negotiations, preferring to hold talks at an international conference attended by the PLO. King Husayn has declared more than once he will never speak for the Palestinian people.

Secondly, the Israeli prime minister knows that President Husni Mubarak and Shim'on Peres, former Israeli prime minister and current vice prime minister, have agreed that 1987 should be the year of peace with regard to the Middle East crisis. As we understand it, a year of peace means both the Arab and Israeli sides should make efforts in good faith to settle the 40-year conflict.

For the attainment of this goal, Egypt and Israel have agreed on the need for an international peace conference, attended by the permanent member-states of the UN Security Council. During his European tour, which included France, the FRG, Romania, Italy, and Greece, President Mubarak convinced these European countries to support and advocate the concept of an international conference.

When Egypt approached the European Community in an effort to give impetus to the Middle East peace process, it took into account the fact that the United States is currently in a position in which it may not be able to make sufficient moves toward attaining this settlement. In the wake of the U.S. arms deal with Iran and its domestic and foreign repercussions, the United States is no longer capable of either negative or positive actions [on the Middle East issue]. If it were to support the Arabs to mitigate the effects of the Iran arms deal, a volcano of Zionist anger would erupt within the country, which would hasten the demise of the current U.S. Administration. If the White House were to declare it is adopting the position held by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, the man who rejects the idea of an international conference and demands direct negotiations with Jordan, Washington could lose what credibility it has left among the Arabs. Thus, no one knows how matters will develop in such a cloudy American climate.

We must also remember that the U.S. presidential elections will soon take place, which will totally divert the United States'

attention from the Middle East crisis to the consideration of votes.

The Israeli prime minister imagines that his willingness to visit Amman might elicit a response that would ease [as heard] the pressure on the PLO, which is currently the target of painful blows directed by the Syrian regime and the Amal Movement.

For all these reasons, Yitzhaq Shamir wants to receive the U.S. envoy to the region with a statement about peace to assuage the U.S. Administration's embarrassment.

Cairo Weekly on U.S.-Israeli 'Scheme' in Region
JN042047 Cairo Al-AHALI in Arabic 31 Dec 86 p 2

[Muhammad Sayyid Ahmad article: "Our Foreign Policy on the Threshold of 1987"]

[Text] Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni has stated Cairo will devote 1987 to the peace negotiations and to paving the way for the convocation of the international Middle East peace conference.

It has been irrefutably proved that the cause of peace is not a bilateral cause between Egypt and Israel. It is a cause which must inevitably comprise all parties concerned in the region. With the deterioration of the Arab state of affairs in such an unprecedented manner, Israel has no interest at all in agreeing to a contractual peace with the Arabs because it achieves complete security for itself by escalating operations of aggression, by exercising belligerency on a regional scale, and by imposing a concept of peace that calls for the elimination by armed force of all the obstacles it believes will undermine its security, stability, and hegemony.

There are two wars now raging in the region, one in Lebanon and the other in the Gulf. Israel is not directly involved in either of them, but its role in fanning their fires is unquestionable.

Israel plays its well-known role in Lebanon. The attempts to divest the Palestinians of their weapons in the camps war, even if those who are doing this are Arab or Lebanese parties, will ultimately serve Israeli plans. Israel will continue to insist on removing the PLO and consequently the Palestinian cause from any peace negotiations.

Israel's role in fanning the fires of the Gulf war has been clearly exposed. Its interference was decisive in the U.S. arms deals with Iran.

The current flareup would not have been possible had it not been for the U.S.-Israeli interference with the purpose of escalating military operations at the expense of any party that seeks a peaceful settlement.

What is currently taking place in the Arab arena is a confirmation of the fact that the U.S.-Israeli scheme has completely succeeded.

Washington has used the pretext that it is capable of overcoming Arab-Israeli differences to work in reality to exacerbate intra-Arab differences, squander the Arabs' factors of strength, and to achieve Israeli superiority by emptying the peace negotiations of any meaning other than attaining a formula that will make the Arab parties capitulate to Israel without any conditions.

The elimination of Egypt was the first part of this scheme. The second part of this scheme, consisting of the elimination of the Palestinian side, is now being implemented.

That's why Tel Aviv was not the most suitable place for the Egyptian ambassador to speak about the chances of convening an international conference for peace in the Middle East in 1987. The forthcoming Islamic summit in Kuwait would have been a better place, where the intentions of the Arab parties could have been tested, as well as their readiness to exert collective efforts to confront a fateful stage in which the Arab nation's entity and the legitimacy of its regimes will be endangered.

Ghali Comments on Chad Fighting, Lebanon
NC021344 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 Jan 87

[Text] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has announced Egypt is closely following the fighting which now rages in northern Chad.

In a statement to our radio correspondent, Dr Ghali said Egypt reiterates its support for Chadian President Hissein Habre in his struggle to unify Chad and guarantee its national independence.

Commenting on the war in Lebanon, he stated: This fighting is very regrettable. The clashes raging between the various Lebanese groups and between these groups and the Palestinians only impede achieving a unity of the Arab ranks. It prevents the Arabs from rallying behind one goal at a time when the Arab nation needs to unite. This is particularly important in view of the fact that U.S. interest in the Palestinian problem has receded and European enthusiasm for it has become lukewarm. He added: As a result, a united Arab rank is the only way for us to break the deadlock in the peace process.

AL-AHRAM Scores Al-Qadhdhafi's Policy in Chad
NC030500 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2120 GMT 2 Jan 87

[Text] Cairo, 2 Jan (MENA) — *Al-Ahram* describes Colonel Al-Qadhdhafi's current actions in Chad as destructive behavior for his own country. It notes his acts are a function of his personal whims, and are devoid of any political considerations or understanding of the proper notion of a statesman's task.

In a commentary in its Saturday edition, the paper points out that Al-Qadhdhafi is gripped by a strong desire to extend his country's borders to South Africa. He is using the Libyan people's money to achieve his expansionist dreams by fomenting anarchy and buying agents in neighboring states.

Al-Ahram adds that while Col Al-Qadhdhafi exhausts his country's resources to attain his personal goals, development projects in Libya have been suspended. The country suffers from an economic recession and an extreme shortage of basic commodities. This means the structure of the state itself has begun to weaken under the strain of foreign adventures, which a small country like Libya cannot bear.

The paper concludes its commentary by affirming that Al-Qadhdhafi's actions reflect an absence of political understanding. They seek to fulfill irrational personal ambitions which not only serve no national interests, but have actually become a tool destroying the foundations of the Libyan state itself.

AFP: Bakr Discusses Domestic Security and Order
NC031039 Paris AFP in English 1027 GMT 3 Jan 87

[Text] Cairo, Jan 3 (AFP) — Egypt's police force has orders to be "extremely firm" in dealing with "all those who seek to harm the security" of the country, Minister of the Interior Zaki Badr said in an interview published here Saturday by the weekly *Akhbar al-Yawm*.

In a clear reference to Islamic fundamentalists who called last Thursday for his resignation, General Badr said, "I will never accept inaction with regard to a minority which is terrorising the people."

The police can use any means to restore security and order, Gen Badr added. He disclosed that "several attempts to mount terrorist operations" had been discovered, "of which we have not yet spoken."

The interior minister made no direct reference to the recent clashes between police and fundamentalists at Asyut in upper Egypt, the province where he was formerly governor.

The disturbances resulted in the arrest of 124 people.

Fundamentalist leaders Thursday accused the authorities of "provocation" in the Asyut clashes, by infiltrating congregations in the mosques, starting fights and causing the riot squad to intervene.

The police had profaned the mosques by breaking into them and using firearms and tear gas, fundamentalist preacher Shaykh Hafiz Salah said. Gen Badr was also accused of ordering the torture of Islamic detainees.

The trial of 45 police officers accused of torture began on December 23.

Saudi Military Delegation Arrives for Talks
NC041944 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Jan 87

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jan (MENA) — Shaykh Malik 'Abd al-Hafiz Malik, adviser to the Saudi minister of defense, arrived in Cairo this evening leading a delegation on a week-long visit.

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During the visit the Saudi military delegation will hold talks with Egyptian military officials on boosting cooperation.

Multinational Force to Take Over Tabah 7 Jan
NC021909 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT
2 Jan 87

[Text] The multinational force will assume its duties in the area of Tabah next Wednesday [7 Jan], in accordance with the provi

sions of the arbitral compromis agreement signed by Egypt and Israel last September. According to this agreement, the multinational force is to assume its duties a month after the exchange of the arbitral compromis ratification documents — which took place in Geneva on 8 December — all pursuant to the agreement signed on 25 April 1982.

Khayrallah News Conference on 'Great Day Battle'
 JN031130 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 3 Jan 87

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Jan (INA) — Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister, last Tuesday, 30 December 1986, held a news conference at the Palace of conferences here in Baghdad during which he gave the details of the Great Day battle waged by the III and VII Army corps against the forces of the Iranian regime. The following are the details of this news conference, which was attended by a large number of correspondents representing Arab and world news agencies, newspapers, and radio and television networks:

Director of political guidance: Question from the Kuwaiti newspaper *Al-Siyasah*: What was the target of the Iranian offensive?

Minister of defense: Following the last battles in southern Iraq in February and at a news conference in the Al-Basrah region, a similar question was asked. I say that Iranian officials have often announced their intention to settle the war this year [1986]. They raised the banner of deciding the war between Iraq and Iran. I recall in particular that Kamal Kharazi, the official spokesman of the Iranian Armed Forces, announced on 20 December that all preparations had been made for the decisive battle and that they were awaiting the political decision. Hashemi-Rafsanjani has also stated more than once that the next battle would be a decisive one. I also recall that in a recent statement during Iranian naval maneuvers in the Strait of Hormuz area, Hashemi-Rafsanjani warned that the results of the next Iranian aggression would be great and historic.

The target of the offensive is shown on the plan before you. I am sorry I could not bring more than this plan for obvious reasons. Their target, if it had succeeded, was to isolate the VII Army Corps in the south, prevent any cooperation between it and the III Army corps in the north, and attack the city of Basra from the south and the north. If they had managed this penetration, Basra would have been no more than 13 km away. Therefore, the main target of the offensive was to hit the right flank of the III Army Corps north of Basra and to also attack the city from the south. This would have meant the complete severance of the Al-Faw peninsula, that is, the whole of the eastern bank of Shatt al-'Arab to Al-Faw, Khawr 'Abdallah in the south, and then northwest to Basra.

As has already been explained to you by one of the officers of the general staff, during the first attack, the Iranians used eight divisions and six brigades. The enemy planned to send more forces if the penetration succeeded, thereby exploiting the penetration and achieving the target we referred to earlier. Therefore, the Iranian offensive was in fact the offensive they threatened to carry out in the decisive year.

Director of political guidance: Mr Minister, you have implicitly answered the second question. Certain journalists may, however, need further clarification as to whether the attack on the III Army sector and the VII Army sector was the one said by Iran to be the decisive offensive or the large-scale major offensive. The question comes from REUTER, CBS, the French

magazine *Le Point*, the Kuwaiti newspaper *Al-Siyasah*, the Cairo newspaper *Al-Ahram*, and the Paris-based magazine *Kull al-'Arab*.

Minister of defense: Time and again, Iranian politicians have said this would be the decisive year. There have been two interpretations of the decisive year. Some people took this to be the current Gregorian year. Others understood it according to the Iranian calendar, that is, 21 March 1987. Be that as it may, it may be up to Rafsanjani or Kamal Kharazi to provide the answer. In any case, our brothers who are present here and who have been monitoring the war and Iranian official statements must realize how temperamental they are. They make a thing big or small, strategic or otherwise, according to their whims. Last month they managed to establish a foothold in a small position in the Qasr-e Shirin sector from which they were dislodged the following day. This minor position was turned by their information media into a strategically important target. When they lost it they kept silent. If their offensive was the decisive one, you have seen the outcome for yourselves. If by the decisive offensive they mean March or a little sooner or later, so be it.

Director of political guidance: Given the amazing speed with which the Iranian foothold was destroyed, whether east or west of Shatt al-'Arab or on Umm al-Rasas island or in the III Army sector, correspondents wonder whether Iraq used new weapons or whether the Iranians failed. Or was it due to Iraqi firepower? The question comes from *Al-Siyasah* and *Kull al-'Arab*.

Minister of defense: We think the Iranian offensive was large scale. The war is now in its 7th year. We have learned from the many offensive and defensive battles we have fought, including Al-Faw. Preparedness on the Iraqi side was complete — in field preparations, plans, choice of units, and alertness of the Iraqi soldier. With such a combinations of factors, the Iranian side did not stand much of chance. We anticipated things would turn out the way they did. There were reasons for what happened in Al-Faw. We Iraqis know what they were and consider them to be peculiarities of the war. We rectified the negative aspects which ought not to have happened. Each situation has its own circumstances. In my opinion, the results achieved by the enemy in Al-Faw made them take the kind of action they did on 24-26 December. The enemy failed to take into account our meticulous preparations, the steadfastness of our units, as well as the valor and tenacity of our fighters despite the massive and successive human waves crossing Shatt al-'Arab which crashed before our defenses. Some company-strong units managed to establish a foothold in two positions. You have heard about and seen the results for yourselves, especially those of you who have been to the battlefield. You must have seen examples of the steadfastness, conscientiousness, and faith of the Iraqi soldier in the cause for which he is fighting. New weapons...those of you who have had military service know that on the regiment and brigade levels there are no new additions beyond the known infantry weapons. Those who care to visit the front are welcome to do so, but they must be careful about security. They are weapons of defense regiments, defense regiment, or defense brigade. [sentence as received] As far as trenches are concerned, there is nothing aside from the traditional calculations.

Director of political guidance: Colleagues from *Al-Ahram*,

Al-Siyasah, *Kull al-'Arab* magazine, *Sunday Telegraph* of London, and British ITV Network would like a comment from Your Excellency on Iranian losses. They also inquire about Iraqi losses in personnel and equipment.

Minister of defense: The confirmed losses can be removed if orders are given but they can also be seen all along the front. As for unconfirmed losses, they remain mere guesswork. I cannot commit myself to any particular figure, because this is outside my ability. As far as we are concerned, I can say in all honesty that our losses have not reached 1 percent of the Iranian losses.

Director of political guidance: Have the Iranian forces produced any new weapons during their last offensive, such as those referred to in the scandal of the arms cooperation between Israel and the United States on the one hand and Iran on the other, especially regarding Tow missiles?

These questions are from FRG radio and television, Radio Monte Carlo, French Television-channel One, REUTER, MENA, *Al-Dustur* magazine which is published in London, Kuwaiti paper *Al-Siyasah*, Cairo paper *Al-Akhar*, and MAP.

Minister of defense: The arms mentioned by U.S. officials were spare parts for aircraft and radar as well as for other high technology items. It was said that the arms deal made up for the shortages in Iran's air defense which is composed of Hawk missiles. Regarding Tow missiles, it is already known to you that since the shah, Iranian arms have been American. We faced these weapons in more than one battle. However, the nature of the last battle was different. It was fought in an area abundant with groves and water obstacles where it was impossible for both sides to use tanks. This does not mean that these arms did not appear in areas where tank battles were possible. Regardless of their effect on the war, these arms still help prolong the war.

Furthermore, since the outbreak of the war and until the announcement of cooperation with Iran, the United States has remained neutral as it claims. This was met with diplomatic estrangement and hostile stands from the Iranian side. On the other hand, our relations with the United States have been normal.

Director of political guidance: We would like to go back to the subject of the Iranian offensive and whether it was a decisive one or not. Do you expect the Iranians to launch another major offensive and where? Did your visit to the central sector and the Iraqi Air Force raids on this region have anything to do with the area of the offensive?

These questions are from Radio Monte Carlo, *Al-Tadamun* magazine, *Orient Press Agency*, FRG Radio and television, *Kull al-'Arab* magazine, REUTER, *Sunday Telegraph*, and ITV.

Minister of defense: If one of the definitions of war is that it is a means to acquire political gains or, as the commander in chief of the Armed Forces said, it is a reflection of policy, I say that war has several dimensions. If the Iranian side wants to achieve a decisive victory over Iraq or have some trump card to pressure Iraq with if a cease-fire is reached, then what Iran is carrying out today is better under conventional calculations. [Sentence as

received] But the question posed is: What is preventing the Iranian side from settling things definitively if this is the equation: Winning the war or not?

My assessment is that the Iranian side bet on this battle as the decisive battle had it been allowed to develop to attain its predetermined objectives. However, in view of the results which all of you have seen and heard about, the Iranian side may try to make another attempt. So long as the war continues to rage, military operations will continue to take place because they are subject to circumstances and to all eventualities. When and where did I tell reporters to expect us to hang out all our dirty linen? The war exists and its characteristics too. However, we do not need to exert too much effort to influence its developments. As far as we are concerned, we have experienced all kinds of battles. As far as the Iranians are concerned, we know all about them. Where are the points they scored which may benefit them?

Director of political guidance: Let us go back to Basra, Your Excellency. Why did the Iranians choose Basra for their offensive? What is the state of affairs in Basra now? In your opinion, what objective did Iran want to achieve in its recent offensive? This is part of a question Your Excellency has already answered. These questions are from *Al-Akhar* and French television.

Minister of defense: We know our areas of superiority over the Iranian side and they know them too. The opposite is true. In areas where they sustain huge losses they cannot confront us. They move away from our areas of superiority. That's why they cannot confront us. They move away from our areas of superiority. That's why they chose Al-Faw. If we take into consideration the topographic nature of the terrain in Al-Faw, we notice that the place where the recent offensive took place is no difference. That's why I expect them to continue to devote their attention to Al-Faw. But if they choose another place, then they will be welcome too. They have tried all areas.

Director of political guidance: What about the situation in Basra, sir?

Minister of defense: Let us speak about Basra and the morale of its citizens. I invite you to visit Basra where you will know the truth after meeting with the citizens there. As for the fact that they are peaceful citizens who are daily being subjected to artillery shelling as well as shelling from rocket launchers, I leave it up to you and I will not comment on it. You will find citizens who deeply love their country and want to defend it. They believe that this is their fate and that they must stand fast in their defense of the homeland and its honor. I am sure that you will admire the Basra citizens' steadfastness.

Director of political guidance: This is a question from Monte Carlo radio: Some analysts say the Iranians intended to go to the Islamic summit in Kuwait with a trump card in their hands. Will their failure in their offensive make them refrain from attending or will there be another offensive before the summit?

Minister of defense: The two parties have a legitimate right to cling to what gives them a better position. I do not rule out the possibility that the recent Iranian offensive was linked to an expected result since they had agreed in principle to respond to

the invitation to attend the Islamic summit. But if they change their stand or put forth a new stand, this is something which involves the Iranian command.

Director of political guidance: Do you expect another offensive before the conference?

Minister of defense: Logically, I believe they are now nursing their wounds, but illogically, the way they are known to act, the possibilities exist. If I were on the other side I would not commit another grave mistake like the one of a few days ago. I am not giving them advice, but I say to them: You are welcome to try.

Director of political guidance: Sir, we will move to a purely political question. What is the Iraqi plan to be discussed at the ICO summit to end the Gulf war and what results do you expect from the conference regarding the Iraq-Iran war?

Minister of defense: It is correct that I am a member of the political leadership and not only the defense minister. I may have no right to speak for my colleague, the foreign minister, in this regard. What I can say in general is the following: Since the first week of the war, we have been calling for unconditional peace. Each party should be on its territory within the international borders, establish good neighborly relations, should not interfere in the other country's internal affairs, and the two peoples have the right to choose the system and life they want. This has been the declared and firm stand since the outbreak of the war and until this moment. This stand will continue. These ideas have been presented on many occasions and in many international forums. They can also be presented at the upcoming ICO summit in Kuwait. The plans and methods should provide the basis to end the fighting.

Director of political guidance: Sir, 1987 is very near. What expectations do you have regarding the war this year, and do you see an end to it soon? This is a question from the *Sunday Telegraph*, *Al-Sharq al-Awsat*, Radio Monte Carlo, the CBS television network, U.S. News [as received], and the ITV television network.

Minister of defense: This question has been raised at many conferences. I can say with great confidence that the military option before Iran has ended despite the possibility of surprises. Although these surprises are currently ruled out, I mean that a big power may enter the war with its weight behind Iran. The war will then not be between Iraq and Iran. It will take another form. With regard to the Iraqi and Iranian potential, I reiterate what I have said before in terms of military calculations. However, in terms of our political analyses, those who are ruling Iran were entrusted with a mission when they assumed power. If they are convinced that they have achieved their purposes then the end to the war would seem to be imminent.

I would like to remind everybody that we have been on our international border since 1982. What has been achieved by the Iranians is more than negated by the unnecessary human and economic losses as well as by the Iranian people's psychological state. If the Iranian regime's leaders are asked: What have you achieved in exchange for the heavy bloodshed from 1982 until today, [The answer will be] more destruction, the economic

machinery is destroyed and damaged, the war machine is on the path of destruction, and elite Iranian youths and men have passed away without any justification. The result? A few kilometers in Al-Faw. Contrary to my nature, I pledge to you that we will expel them according to our calculations. Since 1982, they have been fighting against this solid wall and licking their blood in their defeat. The anticipated end of the war depends on the circumstances. As for us, we say for the second time that the military option for the Iranians has ended.

Director of political guidance: Sir, we return now to Irangate. Do you believe that the United States and Israel will stop their arms supplies to Iran?

Minister of defense: It is possible that the United States will stop its arms supplies to Iran, but I do not think Israel will. The reason is the nature of relations between Iran and Israel. Regarding us and the United States, the United States is a superpower that is concerned about its relations within the balance of power in the Middle East of which we are a part. There is nothing between us and the United States that calls for a war. I believe that the present situation in the United States is not conducive to taking further steps to supply Iran with spare parts or arms. Regarding Israel, those who follow Israeli officials' statements will learn that they always affirm that they are concerned about supplying Iran with arms. They say this, not us.

Director of political guidance: The brother from the Cairo newspaper *Al-Akhabar* asks if Egyptian-Iraqi arms cooperation still exists. He also asks about some fraternal Arab countries' support for Iran in terms of arms.

Minister of defense: We and our brothers in Egypt announced that we receive some hardware and weapons from Egypt when necessary. This was announced by the commander in chief of the Armed Forces and the president of the republic 3 years ago. These weapons and hardware constitute a small part of the needs of Iraq and its forces. It is a fraternal stand.

Regarding the Arab countries which stand on the side of Iran, this is no longer a secret. The Libyan and Syrian regimes have announced more than once — the last time being when their foreign ministers met with the Iranian foreign minister in Damascus — their support for Iran until the regime in Iraq is toppled, as they wish. Many writers and journalists have said a great deal about this issue. I have nothing more to add.

Director of political guidance: There are many press reports, and others described by a Moroccan news agency correspondent as semiofficial, about Chinese arms deals, including modified MIGs and long-range surface-to-surface missiles, with Iran. What is Your Excellency's comment?

Minister of defense: Officially, China denies supplying Iran with arms, unless there is a third party buying from China and giving to Iran. A plane is a weapon which is difficult to conceal if it wants to take part in a war. If it penetrates our airspace and faces being downed, this would not be easy to conceal. Whether these planes are at the delivery stage, we so far have nothing to confirm or deny this.

Director of political guidance: And the surface-to-surface missiles?

Minister of defense: Baghdad was hit with missiles and this was announced by the Iranian side. It is believed that some of these missiles were exported from Libya. The head of the Libyan regime has more than once affirmed that he backs Iran and gives it missiles. I have nothing to confirm or deny whether some of the missiles which hit Baghdad are Chinese. Our only information is China's official denial of supplying Iran with this type of weapon.

Director of political guidance: The newspaper *Independent* asks: Sir, about the Soviet Union's supplying Iraq with arms. Has Iraq been supplied with some weapons recently?

Minister of defense: The sources of weapons in the world are known. Our arms relationships are not secret. Our arms are Eastern and Western. If what is meant is to embarrass the Soviet side for allowing itself to supply Iraq with arms while refraining from supplying the other side, which is Iran, I would like to ask for the questioner's permission for this comment: We have been defending our country for several years. We advocate peace without conditions. I believe if we knock on the doors of all friends asking for weapons, this will be in fulfillment of our legitimate right to defend our country. I believe this is clearly legitimate.

Our relations with the Soviet Union are longstanding and strong, not only regarding military aspects but also other aspects. This is also the case with France in particular of the EC. We also have good relations with Italy with which we have a naval contract, despite the 3-year procrastination of delivery for reasons well known to us and to the Italian side. However, the sources of our arms are generally Eastern and the major source of arms for our Air Force is France.

Director of political guidance: A question on where you concluded, Mr Minister, by a Frenchman on France. What do you expect from France and what is your opinion of the improving French-Iranian relations?

Minister of defense: We expect France and all friends to distinguish between Iraq's defensive, legitimate, and completely peace-seeking stand and the side which publicly and ceaselessly and before an international forum beats the drums of war and aggressiveness. We have distinctive and intimate relations of friendship and cooperation with France. Our friends in France and the entire world have a clear vision of Iraq's stand on the war.

France's stand is appreciated. It is a friend which is concerned about its interests with Iraq in particular and the Arab homeland in general. France honors its agreements with us. We ask it and all the good forces of the world to support truth, encourage the peace advocate which is rejecting war, and to provide a just climate and circumstances for achieving peace after the long 7-year war.

Director of political guidance: The British *Sunday Telegraph* says there are reports about the United States supplying Iraq with intelligence information obtained from satellites. What is your comment?

Minister of defense: Such rumors were also made during the Al-Faw battle. If such information were correct and the result was the loss of Al-Faw then we would like to thank those who provided the information. However, if this is intended as a test or an attempt to achieve equilibrium with regard to what took place between the United States and Iran with regard to arms, then I believe that those who provide us with information and provide Iran with arms and spare parts should also provide Iran with information because there is no proof of the accuracy of this information. If there is any intention to provide us with information which would be useful in our war, then we would thank those who provide such information, except Israel of course, whether it is the United States or any other side. It is a good thing for someone to provide us with information when we need it and we would thank those who do so.

However, if the intention is to achieve equilibrium with regard to what has taken place, then we cannot blame the United States for anticipating its position in Iran in the post-Khomeyni stage. However, if the aim is, according to the U.S. president, to befriend the moderates in the Iranian regime, then I believe that you realize that the decisionmakers in Iran are well-known: Khomeyni, Ahmed Khomeyni, and Rafsanjani, who represent the intransigent line calling for the continuation of the war. If what U.S. officials said about McFarlane's 5-day visit to Tehran is true, then I believe that such things cannot take place without the approval of the first or second man in Iran. If this were the case, then the arms, spare parts, and information went to the extremists and not the moderates. We were not told who the moderates are in the Iranian regime. Every official in Iran, from the most important to the least, are sounding the drums of war. If the aim was to avoid blackmail it has not succeeded. The equipment, spare parts, and missiles arrived and the hostages have not been released. Does this not encourage the blackmail and international terrorism led by Iran?

If the aim behind providing Iraq with information was to achieve equilibrium in this state of affairs, we say we are not pessimistic about what has happened. However, this would encourage the aggressor. This stand contradicts the impartial position the United States took on the Iraq-Iran war. I am not here to advise the United States, but I believe that what has taken place has harmed the credibility of the U.S. leadership and pained the United States' Arab friends. It is very acceptable and legitimate for the United States as a superpower to anticipate the future of Iran in the post-Khomeyni era and to attempt to find areas of influence, as expressed by the U.S. President in his first statement. If these were acceptable on the Iranian side in light of Iran's known circumstance, what about Iraq with which the United States has normal relations and diplomatic representation? Where are these areas of influence which they are seeking? As far as the issue of information is concerned, if providing us with this information will benefit us then we would thank those who provided it. However, if the aim is to achieve equilibrium then the outcome will be worthless under any circumstances.

Director of political guidance: Thank you, sir. Let us move on to the heroic Iraqi Air Force. We will begin with a question by the Monte Carlo correspondent: Has the Iraqi Air Force achieved its economic and military objectives as you had planned? Is there anything new in your Air Force?

Minister of defense: The Air Force is like the Air Force of any country in the world being, the Armed Forces' long arm. The task of the Air Force is to fly deep inside Iranian territory seeking out vital targets which should be attacked and adversely affect Iranian military capability. As we can see, the Air Force has accomplished admirable achievements. It has achieved a great deal but not all that we hope for. The Air Force has more work to destroy the remaining vital targets which could assist the Iranian war machine. This is a legitimate right.

There have been hints that there have been advanced additions to the Iraqi Air Force. All I say is that the experience of the Air Force has broadened and by virtue of 6 years experience of war between two neighboring countries we have come to recognize targets which we did not account for in the past. Moreover, performance in selecting targets and delivering strikes is more accurate.

Director of political guidance: I would like to ask another question about the Air Force, sir: The Iraqi air raids on Sirri, Lavan, and Larak in the southernmost Arab Gulf and on the Neka station north of Tehran on the Soviet border were effective and demonstrated the advanced capabilities of the pilots and Air Force. The question is: Did you use an advanced method to overcome the long distance of these targets?

Minister of defense: I feel I can read between the lines of this question. If what is required is a denial or admission that the Air Force received assistance during the round-trip journey to the far targets, then I affirm before you that the Air force carried out its missions with Iraqi capabilities and without any help from anyone. I repeat the war is continuing and it has its own circumstances. I can provide you with the real answers, but I believe it is premature. I can reassure you that the raids were carried out with purely Iraqi capabilities during the flights.

If there is any doubt I would like to remind you that the thermal power station lies near the Caspian Sea northwest of Tehran. They accused some brothers in the Gulf of providing facilities to our from the targets. If this is the case, how about penetrating 1,250 km deep inside hostile territory? If this is my understanding of the question then I say it was carried out with purely Iraqi capabilities. Although there is nothing wrong with asking a brother for assistance when it is necessary, this did not take place.

Director of political guidance: There is also a question about the Iraqi Air Force. Did the preemptive operations carried out by Iraqi aircraft prompt the Iranians to speed up the offensive? There is another question: Will the Iraqi Air Force strike again at Iranian cities as happened in the recent raid on Kermanshah [Bakhtarian], taking into consideration that Iraq struck at two camps in Kermanshah and at an electric power station and did not strike at any cities?

Minister of defense: We knew about the offensive. Military plans are subject to accurate calculations and to factors which are either favorable or unfavorable. When there is an intention or when the hostile side has completed preparations to carry out an action, we begin to intervene in its preparations which means we have exposed enemy intentions in advance. When main axes

are threatened and when enemy troop concentrations begin to assume their final shape prior to the zero hour, we intervene in enemy preparations. This is a sign to the enemy that we have discovered its intentions and that intervention has begun.

The enemy has two options: Either to accelerate its steps to lessen the time given to the Air Force to strike at selected targets to reduce their losses or to give us time to complete our preparations while knowing of enemy intentions and realizing the size of enemy losses resulting from knowing enemy intentions as compared to the size of losses the enemy would sustain should it take us by surprise. Hence, the natural answer to your question is: Yes, the Air Force's effective intervention in enemy preparations accelerated its recent offensive.

Regarding striking at cities, we have already struck at [Iranian] cities in reply to strikes on our cities and we have been committed to a decision not to strike at cities up to now. For our part, we respect this agreement but our commitment will end once the other side violates this commitment. Basra has been under direct, fierce daily shelling for more than a month. The same applies to border towns, including Khanaqin. Moreover, Baghdad has been subjected to shelling by missiles more than once and we have not replied to the Iranian side. What we did was strike at targets which the Iranians admitted were struck. As I have said, these targets were vital and economic targets deep inside Iran.

When we bomb a vital target, such as a factory in which workers are present, military norms under war circumstances do not require us to tell the Iranians to evacuate their factories as we will strike at them. However, we declare we will strike at economic and vital targets deep inside Iran. The Iranians do not know the timing, place, and method of the strike. We do not fight 17th Century style in which the knights specified timing, place, and type of weapon used. Certainly, we will not strike at a city. If Kermanshah was meant in the last question, as I am talking to you now there is a troop concentration exceeding three armored divisions and more than this of Khomeyni Guards and Iranian infantry which are stationed in the central sector and on the border and are ready to launch an offensive. Due to the Iraqi Air Force's effectiveness, the Iranians distribute the larger portion of their units away from the front and advance these units quickly after the advance force obtains a foothold in the targets they seek. We then deal blows to enemy troop concentrations away from the front.

Our information indicates that large camps are present in Kermanshah and the information we received from inside Iran indicates that the losses in these camps were actually great. Given the pilot's frame of mind and that he does not have foreknowledge of the camp boundaries and also given that the bombs may hit a quarter adjacent to the camp, errors are a possibility. Such a quarter may also be a residence for officers and noncommissioned officers, but in our intentions and planning camps and not civilian targets are sought. But if the Iranians continue to strike at Basra and border towns, do not be surprised if you hear that 100 planes will strike an Iranian city. Our patience cannot continue endlessly while we watch our peaceful people in cities dying before our eyes. Moreover, when we are convinced of striking and when we actually strike then we will announce that we have struck such and such cities.

I assert that up to this moment we have not hit Kermanshah city as much as we have hit camps on the outskirts of Kermanshah, in addition to vital and economic targets.

Director of political guidance: Sir, there is a question by the British ITV Network. Did the Air Force strike at ships which use jamming systems?

Minister of defense: I have no conclusive answer to this question. But a week ago I read that a British source indicated that one of the ships hit was carrying such equipment but I am not sure and if somebody corrects my remarks I will be thankful.

Director of political guidance: Sir, the questioner wants to be sure of the (?presence) of such a British invention. [Sentence as received]

Minister of defense: There is always a weapon and a counter weapon. This is an endless game.

Director of political guidance: There is a question on the use of chemical weapons. Has Iraq used chemical weapons or did Iran use them in the recent battle?

Minister of defense: Please, I would like to ask you: When Iran lodged a complaint with the United Nations during the previous battles and when it told the UN secretary general that Iraq used chemical weapons against us did the United Nations not ask the Iranians what brought them to the Iraqi border? Did we start an aggression against Iran and use chemical weapons or was it the Iranians who came to us and crossed a water obstacle while we were on our national territory? Despite this, I believe Iran wants to use such a claim as a pretext for its forces' defeat in the recent battle. Moreover, such a claim is meant to belittle the impact of Iraqi capability and also not to say that the Iranian corpses filling the land opposite Iraqi territory were due to Iraqi capability. The Iranian claim is untrue as only a river separates us in the combat area and the use of chemical weapons on the far bank of the river would also harm our units. Furthermore, the combat took place in trenches, so did we put chemical weapons to the Iranians' noses?

Director of political guidance: A questioner says that the Shatt al-'Arab battle proved your ability to paralyze the Iranian forces in the Al-Faw triangle and it is known anyone who does that can also defeat those forces. Is Al-Faw still included in the priorities of your military efforts given that the recent offensive was similar to the Al-Faw strategy? Your Excellency has actually answered this question. In your analysis, what did the Iranians seek by attacking Al-Faw? Have accounts been settled with the Iranians and was the Al-Faw battle avenged in the recent battle?

Minister of defense: Honestly speaking, we hoped a war with Iran would not break out because we do not view Iran the same way we view Khomeini or his regime. Whether we accept or reject it, we and Iran are two neighbors who cannot be separated. Moreover, because we are neighbors our relations with Iran are supposed to be cordial rather than bloody as both of us have been neighbors forever and ever. This means the Iraqi side has no interest in this war and, according to a saying, when one is forced to do something he must do it.

What the Iranians sought in this operation, had the first step been achieved, was to put the existing Iraqi force between the breach they made in the north and the breach they made in Al-Faw in the south. In other words, they sought to advance north of Al-Faw along with the column which achieved the crossing. Al-Faw and other areas are national territories and their recapture is subject to balanced consideration. What is definite is that the Iranians will stay neither in Al-Faw nor in other Iraqi areas. The only factor here is the time factor. I am sure the Iranians, particularly their leaders, are aware of this fact and, as they admitted, they lost 120,000 troops in this small Al-Faw triangle and will continue to lose the rest of their troops in this area. God willing, sooner and not later, we will achieve what we have always said. The Iranians wanted it this way so let it be that way.

Imam 'Ali said: Do not call for fighting but if you are forced to engage in fighting then respond to it. The Iranians threatened us in our own home so we must draw our swords to defend our land, honor, and sovereignty. I expect that their losses will continuously increase in this battle, in the coming battles, and in the Al-Faw triangle. I repeat saying I wish this war had not broken out. This is not only my personal wish but I believe it is also the wish of every Iraqi and of everyone who loves humanity and peace, because you and I know the results of war and that war is not a picnic.

Director of political guidance: Sir, there is a questioner who says you have announced in the past the end of the stage of stationary defense and that you have carried out a series of operations inside Iranian territory. Will your commitment to mobile defense continue?

Minister of defense: The war is one of attack and retreat. Decisionmaking depends on circumstances. If the situation necessitates a preemptive offensive or an action to foil an imminent aggressive action, providing the surrounding circumstances are ripe, then we do this. However, if we find that through specific considerations stationary defense is more useful, then we will use it. We have the ability now to carry out offensives against enemy targets. This is a principle and a course of action.

Director of political guidance: Sir, a question from the *Sunday Telegraph*: Do you face any problems in replacing men?

Minister of defense: The blood of men is dear, brother questioner and audience. However, the homeland is dearest. So, is there any other choice? At his last conference or the one before the last, the brother minister of information and culture announced the training of a number of men in service. We believe this number of men will not give us any problem with training or preparation. Our situation is good and is getting better. The Iraqi men's will and determination are strong enough to defend their country. I believe there is no other choice. However, we will continue to call for peace under all circumstances, providing this will not affect our dignity and sovereignty. Our personnel situation is good. We do not have to worry.

Director of political guidance: How do you evaluate the recent epic in comparison with other battles? Where does it fit in the battles of Saddam's Al-Qadisiyah?

Minister of defense: Exemplary defensive battles have taken place in the fighting of the second Al-Qadisiyah. I can recall three epics in which the enemy sustained very terrible losses. The way the battles were run deserves admiration. If I am not mistaken, some of these battles were approved as lessons in higher military institutes. The enemy has lost thousands of men in the east of Tigris first and second battles. The east of Tigris battle was actually called the crown of battles because twice the enemy made the same mistake and each time it paid a dearer price. However, the difference lies in the time factor, the time spent fighting the two battles.

Battles in which the enemy sustained very heavy losses were the east of Tigris battles, regarding the length of time spent in fighting. Regarding time and accomplishments, we can point to the Fakkeh battles where the enemy made a breach. On the morning of the next day the enemy found itself in a pocket which had been prepared for it. The enemy was encircled and none of its personnel escaped except those who surrendered. It did not take a long time. They entered and their end was the next day as in the recent battle. The size of breach in the recent battle was 40 km and the force which officially participated in the fighting and which reached the bank close to the wing of the III Army Corps was no less than 10 divisions.

I tell no secret by saying that the pictures you have seen on television do not constitute all the enemy's losses. Enemy interference in our movement affects us a great deal because we were on the contact lines. Therefore, what you have seen is where the cameras could go without sustaining losses. Perhaps those of you who have friends on the Iranian side can tell them the volume of unconfirmed losses away from the front. However I believe that, without exaggeration, the losses our forces inflicted on the enemy with various types of weapons were double the confirmed losses because I know exactly what took place. However, I cannot see all that takes place with the naked eye. Maybe some third party will know the truth after some time.

[Before the defense minister's news conference], one of the Armed Forces General Command's officers earlier showed on a military map the axes of the enemy's foiled offensive, its objectives, and the size of forces which took part in it. He said the enemy, in its large-scale offensive against the III and VII Army Corps, intended to isolate these two corps and to occupy the city of Basra. The officer added that the aggressors mobilized for this operation large numbers of units, regular forces, and Khomeyni Guards which were divided in the attack on our forces into units on a wide front which included the area between the Al-Qit'ah area in the south and the (Kut Suwadi)- Bubiyan area in the north along a 40-km front.

The officer pointed out that the advanced force constituted eight divisions and a large number of Khomeyni Guards brigades backed by intensive artillery fire and large numbers of boats to secure the penetration of the advanced forces. He explained that the enemy introduced into battle large numbers of frogmen during the first wave in an attempt to control the forward positions and then the enemy threw into the battle successive waves of its forces carried on boats in an attempt to develop its offensive deep in our territory.

The officer added that from the first moment of exposing the enemy offensive, our units began to deal concentrated blows to its forces, whether being those forces which were able to cross or those which were still on the far bank deep in Iranian territory. He added that the enemy forces were able to obtain a foothold in scattered areas during the first night of the offensive. However, our forces' steadfastness and their quick and strong reply prevented the development of the offensive deep in our territory. With the first light of 25 December, our units began to carry out intensive and quick counterattacks which settled the situation in favor of the hero III Army Corps.

The officer explained that the valiant VII Army Corps was able to settle the situation in favor of our units in the Al-Shahiniyah Al-Qit'ah-al-Baljanayah sector and that after fierce fighting it was able to purge Umm al-Rasas Island of the filth of the aggressors on the morning of 26 December. The officer said: During the stages of the offensive, the hawks of the Air Force and the helicopter gunship force dealt strong and concentrated blows to the enemy's near and far assembly areas and inflicted heavy losses on it. He said this played a great role in destroying the enemy's successive waves.

Communiqués, Reports Detail Recent Battles

Communique No 2,512

JN021728 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1700 GMT 2 Jan 86

[Communique No. 2,512 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 2 January 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant forces inflicted further losses on the aggressors during their operations last night and today as follows:

1. To continue to cut off the Zionist Iranian regime's oil supplies, our hero fighter planes carried out an accurate, effective strike against a large maritime target off the Iranian coast at 0905 today. Our planes returned safely to base. Praise be to God.

2. Our units in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah dealt concentrated blows to selected targets in enemy positions opposite them. They achieved the following:

The killing of five enemy personnel and the wounding of three others.

The damaging of a shovel [preceding word in English] and a bulldozer.

The destruction of four infantry positions and a machine gun emplacement and the killing of several scoundrels in them.

The destruction of a machine gun, a tower, and a vehicle.

3. An enemy group attempted to approach our positions in the VII Army Corps sector. Our soldiers confronted it, killed one of its personnel, and captured another. The rest of the group fled. Elsewhere in the same sector, enemy engineering work was

brought to a halt and a tower and an ammunition dump were destroyed.

4. Our soldiers in the I Special Army Corps, the God is Great Forces, spotted an enemy group opposite their positions. They confronted it with various types of weapons and forced it to flee after inflicting losses on its personnel. Two infantry positions were destroyed, an enemy soldier was killed, and four others were wounded in the same sector.

5. An armored personnel carrier was destroyed and two enemy soldiers were killed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 2 January 1987

Planes Attack Khark Island

JN022039 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
2023 GMT 2 Jan 87

[Iraqi military spokesman's statement dated 2 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our hero Air Force is monitoring the Khomeyniites' actions and intentions. To prevent those scoundrels from repairing the destroyed installations of Khark Island, our valiant Air Force carried out a destructive raid on the northern part of the western platform of Khark Island at 1830 today. After accurately carrying out their duties, our valiant hawks returned to their bases in the homeland safely and triumphantly. Praise be to God.

[Dated] 2 January 1987

Jets Hit Oil Station, Airbase

JN031559 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1520 GMT 3 Jan 87

[Communique No 2,513 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 3 January 1987]

[Text] In the name of god, the merciful, the compassionate. Our Air Force, Iraq's sword which is always brandished over the heads of its enemies, the agents of Zionism, and Iraq's hammer of justice which gives no mercy to evildoers, continues with God's help and the determination of the intrepid eagles to pounce on enemy positions and troop, weapons, and equipment emplacements. Our Air Force also continues to seek out enemy troop movements deep inside enemy territory as well as military and economic targets connected to the enemy war effort.

Our planes carried out the following missions today:

1. At 1338 today a new air strike was dealt to Khark Island oil facilities to prevent the enemy from repairing them.

2. At 1435 our planes dealt a destructive blow against the (Kad Sheran) oil field's main pumping station, scoring a direct hit and setting it ablaze.

3. At the same time other planes carried out a new raid against the Masjed-e Soleyman military airbase, destroying two helicopters which were parked at the airbase and dealing destructive blows against other facilities at the airbase.

4. Our brave planes carried out 63 combat missions during which they inflicted huge losses on the enemy in the various sectors of operation. After carrying out all these missions, our brave eagles safely and triumphantly returned with their planes to the homeland.

May God bless your arms, O men of our Air Force — commanders, eagles, officers, and other ranks. Blessed be your good efforts of meting out just punishment to the enemy of your country which, god willing, will only reap humiliation and defeat. May God guide our steps on the road to great victory.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 3 January 1987

Communique No 2,514

JN031746 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1700 GMT 3 Jan 87

[Communique No 2,514 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 3 January 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces are continuing to inflict further losses on the aggressor Zionist agents. The combat operations for last night and today are as follows:

1. Our brave units in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah directed concentrated artillery and tank fire against enemy positions opposite them and against troop concentrations and engineering works, inflicting on the enemy further losses, as well as the following:

The killing of 10 enemy personnel.

The destruction of a 120-mm mortar gun and the killing of all those manning it.

The destruction of five various positions and the killing or wounding of their occupants.

The destruction of two vehicles.

Halting enemy engineering work.

2. Our valiant units in the VII Army Corps sector directed fire from various weapons against enemy positions opposite them and troop and equipment concentrations, inflicting more losses on the aggressors. Moreover, our units in this sector destroyed an enemy gunboat, a vehicle loaded with ammunition, and an ammunition dump and killed a rascal and silenced sources of enemy fire.

3. One of our brave units in the II Army Corps central sector raided enemy positions opposite them, stormed these positions, killed or wounded all their occupants, and destroyed two infantry positions, an observation post, and a medium-caliber machine

gun. After carrying out its mission, the valiant force returned safely to base, praise be to God.

4. One of our units in the I Army Corps northern sector spotted an enemy group. Our unit engaged the enemy group with its weapons and killed four enemy personnel and the rest of the enemy group fled.

5. One enemy soldier was killed and five others were wounded in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 3 January 1987

Communique No 2,515

JN041735 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1700 GMT 4 Jan 87

[Communique No 2,515 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 4 January 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. During their actions last night and today, our brave Armed Forces inflicted further losses on the aggressors as follows:

1. So as not to leave the Zionist Iranian regime any opportunity to benefit from its oil revenues to serve its evil, aggressive purposes, and in order to keep this vital artery paralyzed, at 1015 today, our heroic Air Force planes carried out a successful raid on a very large maritime target near the Iranian coast. After delivering an accurate and effective hit, our brave hawks returned safely to the homeland in God's protection and care.

2. The units of the III Army Corps observed a large group of enemy personnel opposite their positions in the operations sector east of Al-Basrah. Immediately after spotting the enemy group, our units launched an accurate and intensified attack with artillery and other weapons, killing 30 scoundrel Khomeynites and wounding several others while the remnants of the enemy group fled. Our units in other areas of the same sector launched concentrated attacks against enemy positions and achieved the following:

Killing six enemy personnel, paralyzing the engineering works, damaging two bulldozers, destroying four vehicles and damaging three others, destroying three infantry positions and killing their occupants, and destroying a boat and three ammunition dumps. God bless the brave soldiers of the heroic III Army Corps.

3. Our units in the VII Army Corps opened fire from their various weapons at the enemy's engineering works, paralyzing them, capturing a boat and some weapons, materials, and equipment, killing two enemy personnel, and destroying a heavy machine gun.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 4 January 1987

Air Force Commander on 66th Army Anniversary JN030901 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0805 GMT 3 Jan 87

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Jan (INA) — Lieutenant General Hamid Sha'ban, commander of the Iraqi Air Force and Air Defense, has said that the coming days will witness the destruction of what is left of the pillars of Iranian aggression. In a statement to the monthly magazine *Hurras al-Watan* [The Homeland's Guards] of the Iraqi Defense Ministry, Lt Gen Sha'ban added that the Iraqi Air Force has completed the necessary plans to destroy the human potential, Arms, equipment, and vital targets of the Iranian forces. He affirmed that the injections by Zionism, imperialism, and so-called Arabs will not benefit Iran.

In his statement on the 66th anniversary of the Iraqi Army on Tuesday, Sha'ban said that the great potential of the Air Force is based on a solid foundation of technical capabilities which enables it to carry out big strategic missions and to depend on the national military industry. This is a sign of Iraq's entering an important stage of self-sufficiency based on a broad scientific basis and numerous manufacturing centers to achieve integration in production and meet the battle requirements.

Lt Gen Sha'ban asserted that Iraq possesses accurate and complete information on any Iranian target on the map in terms of its importance in Iran's war efforts or its size. He added that this is confirmed by the accuracy of our missions and the splendid results achieved by the Iraqi pilots as well as by the destruction inflicted on the enemy targets by our blows. Sha'ban noted that the Iraqi Air Force's long war experience played a big role in achieving great results for the Air Force and Air Defense activities which constitute a part of the overall victories of the Iraqi Armed Forces.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Arrives in Baghdad JN031829 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1820 GMT 3 Jan 87

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Jan (INA) — Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived in Baghdad this evening on a visit to Iraq. He was received at the airport by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Nuri Isma'il al-Wayyis, Foreign Ministry under secretary, and a number of Ministry officials.

'Aziz Talks With Al-Jabir JN041134 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1110 GMT 4 Jan 87

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Jan (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met here today with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister. They discussed brotherly relations between the two fraternal countries, the situation in the region, and issues related to the preparations for the forthcoming Islamic summit conference scheduled to be held in Kuwait at the end of this month. The Kuwaiti official arrived in Baghdad last night.

Saddam Husayn Receives Message

JN041246 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1227 GMT 4 Jan 87

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Jan (INA) — President Saddam Husayn received a verbal message from Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah dealing with the strong bilateral relations and current Arab situation. The message was conveyed by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, during an audience with President Saddam Husayn here today. The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, the president's secretary, and the Kuwaiti ambassador in Baghdad.

Karami Comments on Meeting With U.S. Ambassador
NC031451 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon
in Arabic 1100 GMT 3 Jan 87

[Statement by Prime Minister Rashid Karami following his meeting with U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon John Kelly in Miryatah on 3 January — recorded]

[Text] I have received the U.S. ambassador. We held a frank discussion about Lebanon's political, security, and economic difficulties. We also focused our attention on the responsibility the United States must shoulder for our suffering country, particularly with regard to Israel and its continued occupation of parts of our dear south. Several UN Security Council resolutions, most notably Resolution 425, have been adopted with U.S. concurrence. This makes the United States even more involved with ensuring that these resolutions are implemented.

The United States also bears some responsibility for the events in Lebanon threatening our unity and sovereignty. It has been accused of seeking to partition this small country. In terms of security and economics, what is now happening is very serious. Lebanon is being confronted by all kinds of danger ranging from starvation to ongoing violent conflicts, which cause everyone to suffer and complain. All of these things are linked and exert pressure on us, leaving no way to achieve a practical remedy for these chronic problems.

The ambassador has given me to understand that the Americans are against partitioning our country and dividing it into cantons. He said they support Lebanon's unity and sovereignty. He told me they are doing what they can to help put Lebanon on the path toward salvation.

Our discussions focused on these issues. We are awaiting future fruitful moves to resolve them. We are full of hope that 1987 will be a year of deliverance, reform, and serious, constructive action to restore security, prosperity, stability, and pride to the Lebanese people.

Islamic Resistance Attacks Lahd Positions

NC021229 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT
2 Jan 87

[Text] An Islamic resistance group, comprised of approximately 80 men, carried out a bold attack against posts belonging to Lahd's militias in the Bra'shit and Bayt Yahun hills this morning. According to an Islamic resistance source, the group destroyed the two positions and killed all the personnel manning them. It is estimated that 50 agents were either killed or wounded in the attack. The resistance men also destroyed two tracked vehicles, a tank, and a personnel carrier. They seized an M-130 vehicle, which they then transferred to another area, as well as a large quantity of weapons. The Islamic resistance suffered two martyrs during the operation.

According to a report from the National Lebanese resistance, the martyr Shaykh Subhi al-Salih group shelled the Nahariyya settlement in occupied Palestine with four 122-mm rockets yes-

terday. The rockets scored direct hits. The radios of the enemy and agent Lahd have admitted this operation.

The Israeli enemy shelled the villages of 'Ayta al-Jabal, Haddathah, and Shaqra at 0700 this morning. Agent Lahd's artillery shelled the villages of Kafra, Sawtar al-Gharbiyah, and Zatar al-Sharqiyah last night.

Israeli Helicopters Raid South

NC041416 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT
4 Jan 87

[Text] According to information from the south, Israeli helicopters launched air raids on the villages of Bra'shit, Shaqra, Al-Mujaydil, Safad al-Battikh, Tulin, Al-Suwwanah, and Al-Siddiqin in the south this afternoon. Sources said these raids left a large number of people wounded. Some of the injured have been taken to the hospitals in Tyre.

Concentrations of Israeli enemy mechanized units have been seen on the roads leading to the villages of the Tyre and Bint Jubayl districts, where a state of extreme tension currently prevails.

President Briefed on Cypriot Ship Incident

NC031107 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT
3 Jan 87

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil presided over a meeting to discuss security and diplomatic affairs this morning. The session was devoted to the recent incident in which an Israeli gunboat intercepted a Cypriot ship carrying Lebanese passengers to Juniyah port.

The president was briefed on reports concerning this incident, as well as on its repercussions, one of which has led to a halt in maritime travel between Cyprus and Juniyah in both directions. Such a stoppage adversely affects several Lebanese citizens who use the maritime run between Larnaca and Juniyah.

President Al-Jumayyil asked Ambassador Fu'ad al-Turk, secretary general of the Foreign Ministry, and other high-ranking security officials to immediately undertake the contacts necessary to prevent a recurrence of this incident and to restore normal maritime traffic between Juniyah and Larnaca. This would then enable the Lebanese who normally use this route to move freely and safely.

It has been learned this official Lebanese activity will include consultations between Beirut and Cyprus, as well as with a number of great powers and states that can help Lebanon put an end to these Israeli practices.

President Al-Jumayyil has also asked the Lebanese ambassador in Cyprus to take care of the Lebanese nationals present in Larnaca and to provide them with all the necessary aid and facilities.

Israel Orders Blockade of Port

NC031239 *Ihdim Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon*
in Arabic 1100 GMT 3 Jan 87

[Excerpts] According to media sources, a state of anxiety currently prevails in the eastern areas as a result of the circumstances which led to the closure of Juniyah port.

Our radio was the first to report last night that Juniyah Port had been closed. In dispatches from East Beirut today, REUTER and AFP confirmed that the port has been completely shut and is now paralyzed. [passage omitted]

It was also learned today the Israeli office in Al-Dubayyah issued direct orders providing for the port's blockade and Israeli intelligence personnel have since entered the port to observe the situation. What has been imposed on Juniyah by the Israelis, in an overt manner this time, has not come as a surprise to informed sources. This measure followed several Israeli warnings to the so-called Lebanese Forces not to allow Palestinians into Lebanon via this port. [passage omitted]

Forces Censure Israeli Action

NC032111 *Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic* 2015 GMT
3 Jan 87

[Text] The Lebanese Forces Diplomatic Relations Department has issued a statement denying reports disseminated by local and foreign circles that Palestinian fighters have entered the country via Juniyah port. The department described these reports as groundless, adding that they are aimed at causing unrest within Christian society. The statement adds: The Israeli Navy's operation forcing a civilian ship carrying Lebanese passengers to return to Cyprus violates the simplest humanitarian considerations and international laws. This kind of action blocks all exits to the outside world for the Christian community and is in effect a naval siege, the objective of which is to pressure Christians into becoming involved in the camps war to fight the Palestinians. The statement adds: Christian society will never give in to such pressure. The Christians fought the Palestinians in the past, when it was an act of self-defense and the Lebanese citizens were fighting alone. As for the ongoing war, it does not concern us because it is a war of intruders fighting on Lebanese territory, and therefore we shun it, the statement concluded.

Detainee Admits Juniyah Arrival

NC031741 *Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic* 1630 GMT
3 Jan 87

[Excerpt] The Amal Movement Central Military Bureau's 5th Branch has issued the following statement:

Upon receipt of information from our security service on the entry by land of Palestinian groups into West Beirut and Sidon, with the help of parties known for their ties with Lebanese forces, the movement's security service set up mobile checkpoints near the contact lines. Personnel manning the checkpoints clashed with armed groups attempting to enter West Beirut. Three gunmen fled toward a position held by the Lebanese Forces, while

a Palestinian gunman was arrested. The Palestinian admitted he and another 24 Palestinians, including 3 officers, had come from Baghdad, arriving in Juniyah on a Lebanese Forces' boat on Christmas Day. He added that a Lebanese Forces' travel office in Cyprus had secured their passage to Juniyah. [passage omitted]

'Maritime Crisis Over'

NC031808 *Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic* 1715 GMT
3 Jan 87

[Excerpt] It seems that the maritime crisis is over. The *Sunny Boat* and the *Empress* have resumed their voyages between Larnaca and Juniyah. In addition, for the first time since the Israeli Navy imposed a blockade on the port of Sidon, a Lebanese cargo vessel arrived there this afternoon. The details are as follows:

The *Empress* arrived at the port of Juniyah with no passengers at 1830. The ship is to set sail for Larnaca with passengers at 2100 tonight. It has been reported that the *Sunny Boat* will sail from Larnaca at 2300 tonight. It is expected in Juniyah at 0700 tomorrow, carrying the Lebanese passengers who were aboard the ship yesterday when it was turned back. [passage omitted]

Shi'ite Leader Urges Resolving Hostage Issue

NC041428 *Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic* 1400 GMT
4 Jan 87

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, the deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, today affirmed he will continue his efforts to bring about the release of French hostage Marcel Fontaine and the other foreign and Lebanese hostages. The shaykh was speaking during a meeting with Mrs Fontaine. Shaykh Shams al-Din emphasized the need to resolve this issue.

Iranian Delegation Escorts Aid Convoy to Camp

LD032215 *Tehran IRNA in English* 1831 GMT 3 Jan 87

[Text] Beirut, Jan. 3, IRNA — The first convoy of foodstuff and medicines on board five trucks and several ambulances arrived in Al-Rashidiyah camp, south of the southern Lebanese city of Tyre, Saturday in the wake of Iran's effort for a ceasefire between the Amal militia and Palestinian forces in Maghdushah and around the camps.

The convoy was escorted by the Iranian mediatory delegation and a group of Lebanese theologians. Iranian delegates had talked with Amal representatives in southern Lebanon before the convoy was sent.

During the meeting the participants reiterated the need for implementing the full terms of the Iranian peace plan. An Amal official in southern Lebanon termed the Iranian move as "humanitarian" and expressed hope that other phases of the plan would shortly be implemented.

Meanwhile, relative tranquility prevailed around Maghdushah and the sending of food and medicine to Al-Rashidiyah camp is expected to prepare grounds for a successful implementation of other phases of the peace plan, which calls also for the withdrawal of the remaining Palestinian forces from Maghdushah heights.

Iran's Peace Plan Praised

LD041116 Tehran IRNA in English 1017 GMT 4 Jan 87

[Text] Beirut, Jan. 4, IRNA — Five truckloads of foodstuff and medicine ferried by five Red Cross ambulances entered the Al-Rashidiyah refugee camp enhancing a resolution to Maghdushah village crisis, as part of the Iranian brokered peace plan.

The religious judge of Sunni Muslims of Tyre Shaykh Ahmad Zayn described the Iranian action as an important step by the Islamic Republic to end the clashes which he described as "deviational" among the Lebanese Muslim people.

The Ja'farid Mufti of Lebanon 'Abd al-'Amir Qabalan extolled Iran for its humanitarianism and hoped that the implementation of other parts of the plan would be a factor in bringing stability and security to the region.

An official of Amal Movement emphasized the importance of the arriving of foodstuff and medicine being allowed into the camp and said the lifting of the siege of the camps has been made possible only by disarming the Palestinian forces. Amal forces will be responsible for security inside and outside the camps.

Meanwhile, a large group of people of war stricken areas of Zighdraya, east of Maghdushah met Saturday with the officials of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

During the meeting, the Iranian officials denounced the current clashes in the camps and elaborated the Islamic Republic's efforts to end them.

At the end of the meeting a considerable sum of money was gifted to the war stricken people.

Amal Calls Saudi Officials 'Puppets' of 'Tyrants'

NC032203 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2115 GMT 3 Jan 87

[Text] The Amal Movement responded vehemently today to statements by Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz regarding the camps war. The movement described Saudi officials as puppets in the hands of the tyrants.

In its statement, Amal said the statements by the Saudi prince had given Yasir 'Arafat a green light to exacerbate the camps war. The statement added: It is not strange for such a position to be adopted by those who finance 'Arafat in a bid to ignite the camps, weaken Syria, and pave the way for negotiations with Israel. The statement concluded: The Mujahedin, particularly those fighting Israel, know how to purge holy Mecca of the agents of imperialism.

New Group Claims Attack on Pro-Syrian Facilities

NC041312 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 4 Jan 87

[Text] A group calling itself the martyr Khalil 'Akkawi Abu 'Arabi forces of the Lebanese Liberation Front has claimed responsibility for an attack on the headquarters of the Arab Knights [Al-Fursan al-'Arab] in Halba. The group has issued a statement in which it announced that an explosion at this office, which serves as a command center for the 'Akkar area, left several people dead or wounded. The operation, the group affirmed, was launched to avenge the martyrs liquidated in Tripoli at the hands of Muhsin 'Id, Ghazi Kan'an, Major General 'Ali Haydar, and Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Sha'ar. A spokesman for the group said the front will continue to strike at the Syrian presence throughout Lebanon until the death sentence has been carried out against Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an and Muhsin 'Id.

Amal Positions in West Beirut Attacked

'Beirut Martyrs' Claim Attack

NC021817 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 2 Jan 87

[Text] A bomb went off near the Al-Safir building in the Ra's Bayrut section of West Beirut at 1800 today. In a call to Radio Free Lebanon, a spokesman for the Beirut Martyrs Forces Organization announced that the group was responsible for the blast. The caller also said the Beirut Martyrs were behind the detonation of an explosive charge by remote control as an Amal patrol was passing near the Kuwaiti Embassy traffic circle. Three Amal gunmen were wounded in the incident. The spokesman asked residents of West Beirut to stay away from Amal centers, as they will be the target of attacks.

A bomb went off this afternoon under a Renault parked in a lot on Al-Maqdisi Street in Al-Hamra'. The explosion caused a fire, and did serious damage to a number of nearby vehicles.

Ibn Ziyad Group Fires Rockets

NC030722 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 3 Jan 87

[Text] An anonymous caller speaking on behalf of the Tariq Ibn Ziyad group has claimed responsibility for firing two rockets at an Amal center in Al-Mullah, located near the Shuman restaurant of West Beirut, at midnight. The spokesman said four people in the center, including Amal official Ahmad Zayn al-Din, were wounded in the attack.

New Group Claims Bomb Attacks

NC042045 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 4 Jan 87

[Text] A group calling itself the Sacred Vengeance Organization has claimed responsibility for two bomb explosions near an Amal Movement post in the Tallat al-Khayyat area [of West Beirut]

this afternoon. The organization stated one of the blasts left a number of persons wounded.

New Group Ambushes Vehicle

*NC050653 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
0545 GMT 5 Jan 87*

[Text] A spokesman for the Movement of the Unknown Soldier-Beirut Arab Forces [Harakat al-Jundi al-Majhul-Quwwat Bayrut al-'Arabiyyah] has declared his group ambushed a vehicle belonging to the Amal Movement Security Department in the area of Al-Batriyarkiah at 2045 last night. The vehicle was hit by a rocket and all those in it were either killed or wounded, according to the spokesman.

Israelis Limit Military Presence in Jazzin

*NC040600 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT
4 Jan 87*

[Text] Citing people arriving from the occupied border strip, an NNA correspondent has reported the Israeli military presence in the Jazzin district is now limited to the deployment of some day patrols and the establishment of mobile checkpoints to search citizens. According to these recent arrivals, the Israeli occupation forces have assigned the security duties in Jazzin to members of the National Liberals Party, supported by Israeli intelligence when necessary. The inhabitants in this district expect the Israelis to withdraw to a new line, perhaps back to that point which the militias had controlled before the Israeli invasion in 1982.

Commentary on Aims of Murphy Mideast Tour

JN031741 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1215 GMT 3 Jan 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The U.S. Administration intends to dispatch Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy to the Middle East again. Nobody knows what Murphy actually wants in the region in light of the U.S. Administration's successive scandals which removed a considerable number of senior officials and reached the head of the administration. Those who put their cards in the U.S. basket could not stay quiet about the scandals and made statements expressing skepticism about the seriousness and credibility of U.S. officials. They explicitly said the United States had lost credibility in the region.

If the satellites of the United States have spoken of the collapse of U.S. credibility, the Arab masses, and the masses of the region in general, lost confidence in the United States and its policy once this state began to behave like the legitimate inheritor of the fallen empires of the conventional colonialist states, which lost their strength and control and were forced to leave a number of regions which were colonies or satellites in the past.

The Arab masses in particular have suffered and are still suffering from the U.S. policy, which is hostile to the forces of liberation, and from the strategic alliance between U.S. imperialism and the racist Zionist entity in Palestine. They consider the United States directly responsible for Israel's aggressive wars and Israeli expansion in Arab territories and for keeping Israel a permanent military threat to the lands and rights of Arabs. They also consider the United States responsible for preventing a just peace based on the principles of the UN Charter and UN resolutions.

All the acts of successive U.S. Administrations only helped to exacerbate doubts about and mistrust of U.S. intentions and acts. The Reagan administration's approval of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, the aggression against Libya, and the campaign of provocations, threats, and pressure against Syria reduced this administration's prestige in the region and made it unable to play any positive role for a just and durable peace.

What draws attention is that the U.S. Administration did not learn from its mistakes and failure, but increased the violence of its pressure and the fierceness of its attempts to do the impossible in the region. If Murphy is dispatched to the region to clean up the U.S. Administration's reputation, even all the detergent made in the United States cannot clean up this reputation. If he is dispatched to distract attention from the subjects preoccupying U.S. public opinion, the U.S. Administration's scandals are so entrenched, expanded, and serious that neither Murphy nor scores like him can distract attention from them.

If U.S. press information on Murphy's new mission is correct, which says he wants to encourage contacts between separate Arab sides and Israel, this means the U.S. Administration is intent on resisting genuine peace efforts and pressuring Arab sides to be dragged into the pitfall of direct capitulationist negotiations, separate deals, and partial solutions which award

the aggressor for his aggression and hinder the role and duties of the United Nations.

This approach by the U.S. Administration failed in the past and will not succeed in the future. An international conference sponsored and supervised by the United Nations, which is opposed by the U.S. Administration, will continue to pursue this administration and its plots and tighten the noose around it because such a conference is the only way to just peace in the region.

AL-BA'TH Commentary

JN050821 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0530 GMT 5 Jan 87

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Fate of the New U.S. Scenario" *Al-Ba'th* says: If it is too early to talk about — or even predict — the results of Murphy's coming tour of the region, what is certain is that his talks will focus on how to direct the new U.S. scenario and how to impose it as a fait accompli on the region. It seems that the parties to the new plot are convinced that the present circumstances in the region will help them reach their objectives without any confrontation. They are mistaken once again in their calculations. They should not have forgotten that the region has experienced more complicated circumstances and that all these enemies, together and separately, have failed to achieve any of their objectives.

Al-Ba'th adds: It is very useful to recall that the national Arab forces are accurately observing what is taking place, particularly the suspect moves by certain parties in this or that direction. As the national Arab forces confronted and aborted the enemy plots in the past, these forces are now in a position to confront all enemy schemes, plots, pressures, and provocations. The Arab nation's enemies must realize that the new aggressive scenario is doomed to failure despite the international and regional capabilities mobilized to peddle it.

Foreign Ministry Denies Contacts With Egypt

JN051010 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0915 GMT 5 Jan 87

[Text] In Damascus, a responsible source in the Foreign Ministry of the Syrian Arab Republic has denied reports carried by some news media about meetings between Syrian and Egyptian officials. The source added that these reports are groundless and that there are no contacts of any kind between the authorities of the countries. No such contacts can be made between Syria and a regime that cooperates with the Israeli enemy, which expels millions of Arabs from their homes and prepares to occupy more Arab lands.

Kuwaiti Minister Delivers Message to Al-'Asad

LD031855 Kuwait KUNA in English 1744 GMT 3 Jan 87

[Text] Damascus, Jan 3 (KUNA) — Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad left here Satur-

day at the end of a short visit to Syria during which he conveyed a message from His Highness the Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on the fifth Islamic Summit Conference to be held in Kuwait January 26.

The message also deals with the Arab and Islamic situation as well as bilateral relations.

On departure, Shaykh Sabah was seen off by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Kuwait's Ambassador to Syria Ahmad 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Jasim who returned here this afternoon.

President al-Asad has received Shaykh Sabah in presence of Shar'. It was officially announced following the meeting that Shaykh Sabah has conveyed a message to President al-Asad from his highness the amir on the Islamic Summit Conference.

Shaykh Sabah also met with Shar' and discussed bilateral relations and Arab and international developments and Iraq-Iran War, in addition to the issues to be discussed by the Islamic Summit.

Foreign Minister Meets PDRY Counterpart

JN041325 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1215 GMT 4 Jan 87

[Text] Foreign Affairs Minister Faruq al-Shar' this morning received PDRY Foreign Affairs Minister Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali in the presence of PDRY ambassador in Damascus Muhammad 'Abd al-Shutfah. The talks dealt with recent regional developments and fraternal bilateral relations.

Faruq al-Shar' Confers With Afghan Official

JN050929 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0515 GMT 5 Jan 87

[Text] Damascus — Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received (Surur Budish), assistant Afghan foreign minister, yesterday. The meeting was attended by Diya'allah al-Fattal, assistant foreign minister; Shahir al-Duray'i, chief of the Asian Desk at the Foreign Ministry; and ('Abd al-Bari Bahi), chief of the Middle East and African Desk at the Afghan Foreign Ministry. The talks during the meeting revolved around the developments in Afghanistan and bilateral relations.

Yasin Rajjuh on Terrorism, Enemy Schemes

JN040857 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1615 GMT 3 Jan 87

[Text] Paris — Information Minister Yasin Rajjuh has stated that the campaign of falsehoods and slander launched by the United States and the United Kingdom against Syria under the pretext of combatting terrorism will not make us abandon our stand and will not harm our steadfastness. Rajjuh said: We will continue to maintain our firm stand because Syria knows precisely what they want and what they are planning. In an interview with the Paris-based *Al-Minbar* magazine, published in this month's issue, Yasin Rajjuh said that Syria is fully ready

to confront the objectives and schemes of the imperialist U.S.-British-Zionist alliance, even if this campaign of provocations against Syria moves from the stage of threats to that of implementation.

Rajjuh added: Under President Hafiz al-Asad, Syria is not an easy morsel, and it can deal double retaliation, regardless of the circumstances and the challenges.

In reply to a question on the situation in southern Lebanon and the future of UNIFIL, the minister said: Any talk about stability in southern Lebanon must begin and proceed from Israel's complete withdrawal from the south and the confrontation of any substitute plans the Zionist enemy may put forth in exchange for this withdrawal. Rajjuh added: So long as Israel pays no heed to the calls for it to withdraw immediately, then it is natural for the Lebanese national resistance operations to escalate, in order to liberate southern Lebanon in a manner that will force Israel to withdraw. Rajjuh stressed that the enemy understands only the language of force and armed struggle. He said: This is the course of resistance and martyrdom, whose features had been defined by President Hafiz al-Asad. President al-Asad also has entrenched the noble and honorable concepts of this course, which led to the bitter and humiliating defeats Israel had sustained and to the many harsh lessons it had been taught since it invaded Lebanese territory in 1982.

Rajjuh added: Given the many setbacks it has been sustaining, the U.S. policy is experiencing a real dilemma that has made it lose the power to act and has made it lose credibility in the region and on the international level. Rajjuh said: We in Syria do not beg for a U.S. solution or an incomplete solution at the expense of our dignity, life, and future. He added: The course of struggle does not stop at the boundaries that the United States wants to map out. The solution is with our Arab masses and their sacrifices, and not in the White House and at the threshold of the Arab capitulationists. Rajjuh said: The battle is a protracted battle and is in no way whatsoever a battle over borders. It is a fateful battle.

Information Minister Yasin Rajjuh said that the defeat of Israel and its agents in Lebanon, the fall of 'Arafat and his clique into the course of capitulation, and the exposure of the schemes for the liquidation of the Palestinian cause will increase the responsibility of the militant, honest, and sincere forces in the Palestinian and Lebanese arenas, and will enhance their militant and revolutionary status.

In reply to a question on strategic balance with the Zionist enemy, Rajjuh said: We in Syria under President Hafiz al-Asad have practically and effectively started on this course. We are determined to attain it, regardless of the cost and the burdens. He pointed out that strategic balance with the Zionist enemy is a necessary condition and a basic factor of our fateful battle. He said: We will spare no effort to achieve this, supported by all our Arab masses and their national and progressive forces.

In reply to a question on the current political map in the Arab homeland, Information Minister Yasin Rajjuh said: The confrontation by revolutionary Syria under President Hafiz al-Asad of what the advocates of capitulation seek to peddle in the Arab

region requires rallying around Syria's Arab role and requires championing its militant stands because it is the base of Arab steadfastness and the advance fortress that defends Arab rights and dignity. Rajjuh added: Given the fact that we differentiate between right and falsehood and between humiliation and dignity, we in Syria will spare no effort to confront the trend of capitulation and defeatism and oppose it with all means and methods as an expression of our masses' hopes of regaining their usurped rights and defending their national and pan-Arab interests and of their determination to map out their Arab future.

Rajjuh stressed that the Arab solidarity for which Syria is working must be based on the need to confront the enemy and

repulse its terrorism and its schemes for expansion and aggression, as well as on the rejection of separate and partial solutions. He added: True Arab solidarity is based on the will of our Arab masses and their pan-Arab decision to pursue the struggle against all the schemes and plans to liquidate the Palestinian cause. He said: True Arab solidarity will renew the October 1973 victory and our masses' ability to inflict total defeat on the U.S. policy, and will enhance the efficiency of the struggle, steadfastness, and confrontation of the masses against U.S. and Zionist schemes of aggression and expansion.

Minister Peretz Submits Resignation to Cabinet

TA041008 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0951 GMT
4 Jan 87

[Text] At the end of today's Cabinet session in Jerusalem, Interior Minister Yitzhaq Peretz announced his resignation from the Cabinet. This came following the affair of the reform conversion of Shoshana Miller. Minister Peretz' resignation will take effect in 48 hours.

Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir expressed regret over Peretz' resignation and told the Cabinet members that he would continue efforts to persuade the latter to remain in the Cabinet. Our political correspondent adds that this morning before the Cabinet session, Shamir conferred with the interior minister and the two again discussed various proposals to resolve this crisis. Minister Peretz told our correspondent after that meeting that his proposal that the nationality criterion be struck from the identity cards still remains. On the other hand, Peretz would recommend to the members of the Council of Torah Sages that they reject the offer that Shas receive another Cabinet portfolio in lieu of the Interior Ministry.

Navy Halts Cypriot Vessel Sailing to Lebanon

TA031626 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1600 GMT 3 Jan 87

[Text] The Israeli Navy yesterday stopped a vessel on its way from Cyprus to Lebanon and ordered it back to Cyprus, this after the captain of the vessel refused to hand over terrorists who were onboard. Military sources told our military correspondent Shmuel Tal that this was done after it was unequivocally determined that there were terrorists onboard, and this is in accordance with international law, which permits a country to defend itself against terrorism everywhere and by all means.

Our correspondent was told that there is no truth to the claims that Israel imposed a blockade on the port of Juniyah, north of Beirut.

Israel recently warned Cypriot shipping companies that it will not tolerate the transport of terrorists and weapons to Lebanon, but the companies ignored the warnings. Consequently it was decided to put an end to the transfer of terrorists in this way, and yesterday the *Sunny Boat* was not allowed to sail to Lebanon. After it returned to Cyprus the departure of another vessel was cancelled, but this morning it was reported from Larnaca that it had departed to Juniyah without passengers to pick up passengers who want to sail from Lebanon to Cyprus.

The Cypriot Government has protested to Israel over the blockade of the sea route between Larnaca and Juniyah in Lebanon. The Lebanese Government has also decided to ask the Western countries to intervene to put an end to what it terms the Israeli Navy's blockade of Juniyah.

Chief of Staff Comments

TA042028 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1900 GMT 4 Jan 87

[Text] Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Moshe Levi said today that there are always attempts by terrorists to enter Israel via the sea. The Israeli Navy action was intended to prevent this and to prevent terrorists from organizing. The chief of staff said this during a tour of IDF units in the 'Arava region. Our correspondent in the south Gilyon Tzur spoke with the chief of staff on the terrorists' attempts to enter Lebanon from Cyprus.

[Begin recording][Levi] Our policy is to fight terrorists and this is done through preventing them from striking at us, as well as through safeguarding those places which they want or would like to hit. We carry out routine activity at sea, with a great deal of success fortunately, in the face of terrible terrorist acts. In fact, it should be remembered that the most terrible terrorist attack took place following an infiltration via the sea. This activity is also aimed at preventing terrorists from organizing. Thus, we occasionally stop ships and handle them accordingly if they are connected to terrorism or if they have terrorists on board.

[Tzur] Has there been an increase in the number of attempts to transport terrorists from Cyprus to Lebanon?

[Levi] There are attempts all the time, and any time we know of such attempts we do what we can to prevent them from going on, and usually successfully. [end recording]

Peres Discusses Cypriot Protest, Lavi Production

TA032115 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
2100 GMT 3 Jan 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres this evening denied reports that the Israeli Navy has imposed a naval blockade on the port of Juniyah in Lebanon. He noted that Israel intervenes in international navigation only when it has information on the movement of terrorists or weapons that might endanger it. Regarding Cyprus's protest over the detention of the Cypriot ferryboat, which has been released, Peres said that Israel is studying the issue.

Minister Peres was speaking in Bet Berl in the closing ceremony of the Labor Party Young Guard Convention. Regarding the Lavi and the upcoming visit of Pentagon official Dov Zakheim, Mr Peres said that if he will not bring reasonable alternatives we will have to hold a friendly argument with him. He emphasized that the Lavi is not just a plane but a new dimension of sophisticated technological scientific development, and Israel must enter the international scientific race equipped with a significant research and scientific effort.

Discusses O'Connor Visit

TA051243 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1100 GMT 5 Jan 87

[Text] Israel does not need anyone's confirmation or approval of the fact that Jerusalem is its capital or that it is a sovereign, independent country. This was reiterated this afternoon by Vice

Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in light of New York Cardinal O'Connor's meetings [with Herzog and Peres at their residences]. Minister Peres said this in the course of a visit to Tirat Hakarmel, and excerpts of his remarks are brought by our correspondent Haviva Roger:

[Begin recording] [Roger] Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Peres was asked about Cyprus' protest over the interception of a Cypriot ferryboat by the Israeli Navy. Mr Peres believes that Cyprus must make sure that terrorists and their weapons do not leave its territory.

[Peres] I hope Cyprus is not hurt. The best thing it could do is prevent weapons or terrorists from leaving its soil.

[Roger] On another matter, Mr Peres was asked whether he has noticed any change in Cardinal O'Connor following his meetings in Israel.

[Peres] I think the cardinal has his own views which he must define, and that the Vatican holds its own views. I believe that it is no secret that in the Vatican itself, under the Sistine Chapel's ceiling, more than just one opinion exists. There may be six opinions, maybe more. The Vatican usually operates very slowly. I do not believe Israel requires anyone's seal of approval to confirm that Jerusalem is its capital or that Israel is an independent country. This is an irreversible, unchangeable fact of life. It would be wise for such an important visitor as the cardinal to hear this firsthand.

[Roger] Mr Peres believes that the new economic program will be submitted in all its detail in a week or two. We are in the final stages of preparing it, he says.

[Peres] We are nearing the end and are checking whatever should be done from every conceivable angle so that we can really submit a well-balanced plan. [end recording]

Disputes Shin Bet Findings

TA050732 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 5 Jan 87

[Text] In a first comment on the judicial report on the Shin Bet affair, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says he does not agree with all its findings. He said he did accept its main operative conclusion that no one involved in the affair should face criminal charges, but with all due respect to the three Justice Ministry officials who drew up the report, they were in no position to decide whether or not the government had at various stages in the affair been acting in the interest of state security. Peres said that as far as his part in the affair was concerned, he felt no need to apologize to anyone.

Shamir on Murphy Visit, Peace Process, Iran
TA031211 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 3 Jan 87

[Excerpt] Israel will soon be hosting U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, and reporter David Essing asked Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir about his hopes for an advance in the peace process.

[Begin recording] [Shamir] Well, we welcome the arrival of Mr Murphy to the area. All of us are interested in the progress of the efforts for peace, and I think there is still a lot to do about it. We have to try again and again to improve our relations with all our neighbors, and of course we have to come to a position in which we will be able to start a process of direct negotiations between Israel and its neighbors, and first of all Jordan. And, well, if the mission of the visit of Mr Murphy is to contribute to getting to this goal, I think it will be worthwhile.

[Essing] Mr Shamir, when you speak of direct negotiations with Jordan, how and to what purpose do you think these negotiations, what venue could these negotiations take place in?

[Shamir] Well, of course the subject is peace, a formal peace between Israel and Jordan. And if we will have such negotiations, direct negotiations, face-to-face negotiations, we will have to work out the conditions for this peace relationship. And I think there is no other way to come to such a relationship, except this way of direct talks.

[Essing] Would you be willing to go to Amman to meet with King Husayn, or to invite King Husayn to Israel?

[Shamir] Why not? Doesn't make any difference if we will go to Amman or King Husayn will come to Jerusalem. We are ready to negotiate and talk with each other everywhere and we have to do it.

[Essing] At this point, some people are going to be saying, or asking: What do you, Yitzhaq Shamir, have to offer King Husayn if you're not willing to go along with the territorial compromise in Judea and Samaria?

[Shamir] First of all, we have to come and sit around the table of negotiations. And then we will listen to the demands, to the positions of King Husayn, and we will consider his demands very seriously and then will come our answer. I don't say that it will be very easy to come to an understanding, I am aware of the existing gap between the positions of both parties, but you will not expect me to say now what I will say when we will be in this position of direct talks.

[Essing] No prior conditions, then?

[Shamir] It is our clear position that we have to have direct negotiations without prior conditions.

[Essing] We're now coming up to the Islamic summit in Kuwait later this month, Mr Shamir. Some Israeli officials have been talking about a possible breakthrough at that summit in the peace process. Do you think that this is a realistic expectation?

[Shamir] I don't think that the Islamic Conference could be a scene of a breakthrough for peace with Israel, and I don't know anybody who thinks in this way, this manner. But anyhow, we have to continue with our efforts before and after this conference.

[Essing] The Murphy mission also comes against the background of the Iranian arms scandal. Some observers think that Murphy will be trying to pick up the pieces, the American pieces, in the Arab world. We also heard this week that the American attorney general has been again insinuating that Israel perhaps initiated the whole idea. He quoted Colonel North as saying that your

former director general of the Foreign Ministry, David Kimche, came up with the idea. What is your reaction to this kind of allegation?

[Shamir] Well, I cannot see the link between the mission of Murphy and this affair of arms sales to Iran. And, well, concerning your question about these allegations in the United States, we have reacted immediately after such a statement had been publicized in the United States that the Israeli Government was not involved in any form in utilizing this operation for help to the contras. It's not true. Not Kimche and not any other Israeli official initiated or was involved in this matter.

[Essing] Are you concerned that some administration officials might be trying to shift the blame on Israel?

[Shamir] I don't think that I have to think about bad intentions. I think they are wrong; these people saying that and believing that it is true are wrong, and we can very easily convince them that they are wrong.

[Essing] How?

[Shamir] I think when we will have the opportunity to explain to them about our part in all these matters, it will be very easy for us to prove these allegations are baseless.

[Essing] Are you talking about the inquiry that may take place?

[Shamir] It's not important which character will have the inquiry, but anyhow nobody could change the truth, and the truth is favorable to us.

[Essing] Do you have any regrets, Mr Shamir, about the affair, about how Israel handled the affair?

[Shamir] No. I have no regrets.

[Essing] Has the United States asked for assurances, as was reported this week, that no arms are going to Iran?

[Shamir] No. We have not been asked for assurances. We are discussing all the time with the U.S. Government about the various problems in the Middle East, and the U.S. Government knows very well that it is not Israel's policy to sell arms to Iran. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Supports Lavi Production

TA040719 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English
4 Jan 87 p 2

[Text] Producing the Lavi is a matter of "life and death" for Israel from a technological standpoint, Prime Minister Shamir told British Jewish leaders in his office on Friday.

"If we stop (producing) the Lavi now, thousands of engineers and technicians would be fired," he said. "This would greatly harm technological progress in Israel. It is crucial to continue with the Lavi."

Shamir told his visitors there was no comparison between the Lavi and the British Nimrod surveillance plane that was scrapped recently in favour of the American AWACS.

"The Lavi is an excellent plane," he said. "Our experts say it is the best in the world."

Rabin Foresees Friendly Relations With Iran

TA022023 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
2000 GMT 2 Jan 87

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says the Labor Party is part of a government that last year brought Israel a consumption spree that recalls the Arafat days. Minister Rabin says the great cut in the defense budget was wasted on consumption instead of investing it in productive systems.

The defense minister believes that within several years, 3, 5 or 10, Israel's friendly relations with Iran will return to normal, because the Iranians have an interest in cooperating with Israel. However, as long as Khomeinism rules, Iran is Israel's enemy. He noted, however, that the Hizballah organization, which is supported by Iran, has not made any attempts to attack Israeli targets.

Yitzhaq Rabin was speaking at a Labor Party youth gathering in Bet Berl.

IDF Views Hizballah Attacks 'With Grave Concern'

TA031949 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1900 GMT 3 Jan 87

[Text] The IDF regards with grave concern the recurring large-scale attacks by Hizballah on Southern Lebanese Army (SLA) posts, which aim to undermine its soldiers' morale and hurt its position in the security zone. This is reported by our military affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky.

This was stated in reaction to yesterday's attack, when more than 50 Hizballah fighters attacked an SLA post in the village of Bra'shit. Six SLA soldiers were killed and two others wounded, and an armored personnel carrier in the post was taken by the Hizballah force.

Our correspondent adds that the Hizballah forces are avoiding direct clashes with IDF forces in the security zone, preferring instead to act only against the SLA.

Attacks Hizballah Targets

TA041520 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1500 GMT 4 Jan 87

[Text] Israeli Air Force helicopters attacked houses belonging to Hizballah members in the villages of Khirbat Silm and Qab-rikhah at noon. The helicopters hit three buildings: a three-story building and two two-story structures that the organization used as a base for launching terrorist acts. Our correspondent Gabi Zohar reports that the buildings were at the heart of population centers and disguised as buildings for the instruction of religion, which made their identification difficult.

Our correspondent further reports that since September, since the organization began to attack South Lebanese Army (SLA) positions, 20 SLA soldiers have been killed in the attacks and that since May 1985, when the security zone was established, 97 SLA soldiers have been killed.

Our correspondent Alan Ben-Ami adds that the situation in southern Lebanon was discussed this afternoon in a meeting between the defense minister and UN Under Secretary General Marrack Goulding, who is currently visiting the region.

Sources Claim Fatah Airlifting Weapons, Personnel
TA051138 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
 1100 GMT 5 Jan 87

[Text] Israeli security sources have confirmed that Fatah is trying to airlift a large number of terrorists and large quantities of weapons into Lebanon. [Tel Aviv *Davar* in Hebrew on 5 January on page 2 carries a report by Arab affairs correspondent Dan Avidan citing the German paper *Die Welt*, which has "recently reported that Fatah has been operating DC-8's, flying under a Nicaraguan flag," which are transporting men and weapons into Lebanon. The report adds that "a person called [George Hallaq], alias Elias George Andreos, is one of the central figures behind the operation of these aircraft."]

Our Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a reports that Fatah has purchased four civilian DC-8 aircraft which it has added to its air force, codenamed Force 14. The aircraft are currently parked at Sanaa Airport, North Yemen, camouflaged with the Red crescent insignia so as to mislead the Saudis, Syrian intelligence, and Amal. According to the plan, the aircraft were supposed to take off from North Yemen to Khaldah Airport [in Lebanon], stopping over at Jeddah Airport. During the first stage, the aircraft were to airlift terrorists from the Musayyib Camp near Baghdad to Lebanon.

Jordan Wants International Aegis for Talks
TA040816 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 4 Jan 87 pp 1, 2

[Report by political correspondent Yosi Melman]

[Text] In a message it transmitted to Israel via Egypt, Jordan conveyed a tougher position regarding the chances for an international Middle East conference.

Foreign Ministry Director General Avraham Tamir received the message from Egyptian leaders during his latest visit to Egypt last week. Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and his political adviser Usamah al-Baz, with whom Tamir conferred, brought the message with them from Jordan 2 days before. They met with Jordan's King Husayn in Al-'Aqabah.

According to the message, it now transpires that Jordan believes that the preparatory meeting to precede the convening of an international conference should also be conducted under international auspices. To date Israel had thought that the preparatory meeting or talks could be held directly between Israeli and Jordanian delegates, and that this would be the forum in which the composition of the international conference, its framework, and the format of its deliberations would be decided upon. But now Jordan is demanding that even the preparatory talks be held under international aegis and with the participation of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Senior Israeli political sources expressed the view that this Jordanian clarification has limited the chances for an opening in the political process. Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will depart for Egypt in about 2 months to clarify the chances for such an opening.

Meanwhile it also transpires from the report given by Avraham Tamir to the Foreign Minister and Minister 'Ezer Weizman that Egypt continues to adhere to its position that the PLO should be represented in the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Israel objects to the PLO having any representation.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin said last week in a meeting with political correspondents that he does not entertain high hopes for a breakthrough in the political process in the region with the coming visit of U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy.

Egyptian Envoy Calls 1987 'Year for Peace'
JN042021 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World
 1530 GMT 4 Jan 87

[From "With the Events" program]

[Excerpt] Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni has stated that Egypt's slogan for 1987 is that this be a year for peace, for hope that an international peace conference will be held and for hope of bolstering Egypt's relations with all countries, particularly Arab countries. Basyuni made these remarks during his visit to Baqa al-Gharbiyye. Our colleague Misbah Halabi accompanied Basyuni on this visit.

[Begin Misbah Halabi recording] In the comprehensive lecture he delivered a short while ago to a large gathering of Baqa al-Gharbiyye inhabitants, the Egyptian ambassador to Israel said that when the Camp David accords were signed, Egypt wanted them to bring about a just, comprehensive peace and not a unilateral peace in the Middle East. He added that Egypt decided that this would be a year for peace and that Egypt would work this year to bring views between the PLO and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan closer together. Egypt would also work to hold an international peace conference, he said.

The Egyptian ambassador once again vehemently denounced acts of terrorism. He said that Egypt strongly condemns all forms of terrorism regardless of their source. The ambassador was accorded a reception in the lobby of the cultural hall attended by members of scout groups. [passage omitted] [end recording]

'Key' African Countries Focus of Efforts
TA050944 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 5 Jan 87 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Yosi Melman]

[Text] Due to the lack of adequate budgetary allocations, Israel has decided that even if offered, it will not be able to open embassies in most African countries. The decision marks a change compared with the previous policy line and was adopted

at the conclusion of internal Foreign Ministry deliberations chaired by Minister Shim'on Peres and Director General Avraham Tamir.

It should be pointed out that outgoing Director General David Kimche devoted a substantial part of his work to efforts to foster Israel's ties on the African Continent, for which he would frequently make clandestine trips and confer with local leaders in a bid to persuade them to renew diplomatic relations with Israel. According to the new trend, Israel will not "court" most of the continent's countries, will refrain from making economic or monetary promises, and will not pledge to use its influence on their behalf among its friends in the United States. On the other hand, it was decided that a real effort should be made to try to improve relations in general and, as part of that, to renew diplomatic ties with three or four countries considered "key countries," such as Kenya and Nigeria.

A top Foreign Ministry official has told *Davar* that the decision was reached, among other things, to prevent a situation in which small, insignificant countries "blackmail" Israel into making promises in return for their readiness to resume diplomatic relations. Israel is then likely to be unable to fulfill its promise and open embassies, due to financial constraints.

Al-Najah Protests Closure; New Approach Seen
TA040657 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0505 GMT 4 Jan 87

[Text] On Friday the governor of Nabulus presented Hikmat al-Masri, chairman of Al-Najah University Board of Trustees, with a notice on the decision to shut down the university for 7 days. Security sources explained that information had been

gathered that the students were planning to organize rallies and demonstrations in pursuance of Fatah day, which was marked last week. The decision to shut down the university was therefore intended to prevent violations of the public order and violence planned by Fatah supporters. Yesterday roadblocks were erected at the entrances to the university, and soldiers turned back those students who nevertheless showed up at the university gates.

The Al-Najah University directorate rushed to protest the closure decision. Issuing a manifesto yesterday, it stated that this punishment was unjustified. The closure disrupts studies, penalizes the university for intentions rather than deeds, and harms Al-Najah economically. University sources pointed out that since the beginning of the school year the university has lost several dozen school days as a result of closure decrees and roadblocks.

The decision to shut down the university for a week for fear of rioting marks a new Military Government approach. Thus far Judea and Samaria colleges have been closed only following events such as violation of public order or seizure of inflammatory material. Another measure has been the extension of university closures. It seems that the events at Bi'r Zayt University approximately 1 month ago, where disruptions of public order were sparked off in part by IDF roadblocks, have led to a decision to prefer shutting down universities for a specific time over creating centers of friction and daily contact with thousands of students.

Al-Najah University has, as we know, been ordered closed for a week, but on the other hand studies at Bi'r Zayt University are resuming. One month has elapsed since the 29 November events that led to the closure of the university campus. Christmas vacation has also gone by, and studies are resuming.

ALGERIA

Prime Minister Discusses World Economic CrisisLD031227 *Algiers Domestic Service in French*

2200 GMT 2 Jan 87

[Text] On the theme of the world economic crisis and its repercussions on the national economy, prime minister Abdelhamid Brahimi was the guest of the new television program called "Open Dialogue" tonight. The debate brought together (Mr. Boukkabach), director general of radio broadcasting; (Zounzoun), director general of *Revolution Africaine*, (Bouakba), editor in chief of the daily (*Al-Chaab*); Ben Yaquub, the television journalist; and Dr (Bouzidi), professor at the Algiers Institute of Economic Science.

During this debate, the prime minister defined the mechanisms of the world economic crisis and the measures taken by Algeria to guard itself from its negative consequences as far as possible. According to Abdelhamid Brahimi, the rich, industrialized countries of the north, the developed capitalist countries in particular, have since the sixties embarked upon restructuring and transforming their economies. On the whole this has been accompanied by the loss of whole sectors of their steel and shipbuilding industries, certain mechanical construction businesses, textile businesses, and others, and a high rate of unemployment. This restructuring and transformation naturally have had high social costs for these countries, from which they have attempted to free themselves as much as possible by transferring them [words indistinct] to the developing countries [words indistinct] basically by attempting to suffocate any real attempt at redevelopment [words indistinct] for them [word indistinct] in the long-term direct competition [word indistinct] markets for their production and closure of markets supplying them with raw materials.

According to the prime minister, when the northern countries appear to permit some kind of production on their periphery, it is because they previously obtained a guarantee that this production would be carefully stripped of any [words indistinct] to independence and sovereignty to fall strictly within the framework of their strategy, a strategy which basically remains one of domination and looting of resources. It is within this perspective that what I cannot call anything other than an attack on our export earnings should be classified. The prime minister noted that the readjustment of imports and the apparatus of national production had nevertheless permitted an appropriate level of supplies to be maintained for the population without too much disruption. Replying to a question on the possibility of a turn around in the world oil market, he warned against all optimism following the recent OPEC decision to stabilize the price per barrel at \$18. One must remain watchful: The fixing of this price level is not ensured, he said, and furthermore this price level is 40 percent lower than that of only a few months ago.

The prime minister also feels we must seek inside our economy and society the resources required to face up to the contraction of our export earnings forced by a hostile environment.

Replying to another question, the prime minister specified that the irreversible option of constructing Algerian-style socialism in

complete harmony, without rightwing or leftwing complexes, requires us to attach great care to maintaining social and regional solidarity, which has always been dictated to us not only by [word indistinct] but also by economic rationality in the broad sense of the term. Effecting this solidarity is the very aim of Algeria's development strategy. [words indistinct] outside this country and its realities in the name of I know not what musty and idle conception of liberalism, would like to see us cast into the wind the defense of this solidarity, as the countries grabbed by the throat by international finance have done very rapidly, he said. We refuse to do this, said the prime minister.

For Abdelhamid Brahimi there are basically two lessons to be learned from the specific situation experienced by the national economy in 1986: First, the external markets formed by the Western countries are not sufficiently reliable for our development to depend upon, and second, fuels are economic resources under a suspended sentence. They are condemned in the long-term, so to base our development on exploiting fuels renders our economic future uncertain. Today's crisis illustrates the validity of the principle of relying on oneself as well as anything can. We must develop the foundations of our agricultural, industrial, and service industries very rapidly and extensively, said the prime minister.

Questioned on the respective roles assigned to the public and private sectors, the prime minister said that national capacities of all kinds must be involved in development work so that they are driven by concern with contributing to the entire country's progress. Algeria intends to involve them all in constructing its future without the dogmatic exclusion of any kind.

Security Forces Clash With Bou Ali 'Gang'LD040818 *Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic*

0600 GMT 4 Jan 87

[Text] At about 1000 on 3 January, the security forces clashed in Larba District with the remnants of the Bou Ali gang of outlaws. The forces ordered them to surrender, but the seven men opened fire with their automatic weapons at the security forces, who then took up positions.

The security forces killed the following members of the gang: Mostafa Bou Ali, Maamar Touati, Abdessalem Ghrib, and Abdelaziz Mahi. They wounded Noulanouar Taiebi, Mostafa Hamza, and Abdelaziz Lahouich.

LIBYA

Demobilized Troops Ordered To Rejoin UnitsLD041433 *Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic*

1330 GMT 4 Jan 87

[Text] The General Command of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces wishes to inform all military personnel demobilized from the Armed Forces that they should immediately rejoin their units with all their military gear to participate in the coastal fortification operation.

The General Command urges everyone to rejoin their units speedily. Those failing to do so will be legally brought to account and will be brought back into active military service.

As of this month, the dossiers and wages of all demobilized personnel will be transferred from the secretariats, companies, and establishments — as will the papers and driving licenses of those who are self-employed — to the General Command, which in turn will place them at the disposal of the operation for the fortification of the coast.

Al-Qadhdhafi Inspects Coast

*LD042030 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 4 Jan 87*

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has inspected the fortification of the Arab Libyan coast and the measures taken to defend it. He also reviewed the operations of installing fortifications, digging trenches, erecting barbed wire, planting strategic landmines, and setting up various fortifications along the Arab Libyan coastline.

The brother leader also was briefed on the plans for the fortification of the Arab Libyan coastline and for turning it into an armed fortress and a hell that will burn whoever dares to approach it. [Video shows Al-Qadhdhafi in uniform helping to plant a landmine, then a group of soldiers chanting slogans praising the 1 September revolution.]

Libyan Involvement in Chadian Conflict Denied

LD021755 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1724 GMT 2 Jan 87

[Text] Tripoli, 2 Jan — JANA has learned that the battles that took place today at Fada in northern Chad were between two Chadian rebel groups — the CDR [Revolutionary Democratic Council] and the FAP [People's Armed Forces] — and that the Libyans have nothing whatsoever to do with what happened and what is happening in the region.

UN Mission Warns French

LD031928 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1445 GMT 3 Jan 87

[Text] New York, 3 Jan (JANA) — The Great Jamahiriya's mission at the United Nations has warned the international community of the dangers of the flagrant U.S.-French military intervention in Chad. It emphasized that this intervention has political and colonialist aims, opposed to the OAU's efforts to promote national reconciliation.

In a note to the UN Security Council chairman, the mission stressed that the open French military intervention in Chad is simply a new phase of military involvement in the Chad conflict.

The note pointed out that agent Habre is to blame for the political and military escalation in Chad, that he is the one who violated the Lagos Agreement and turned his back on the OAU efforts for national reconciliation between the Chadian factions, and in so doing was implementing imperialist designs.

The note emphasized that the Great Jamahiriya has most effectively contributed to the consolidation of OAU efforts for national reconciliation between the Chadian factions, and that it believes that the OAU is the side qualified to tackle this purely internal Chadian issue.

Anti-French Activity Reported

LD032010 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1820 GMT 3 Jan 87

[Text] Tripoli, 3 Jan (JANA) — The revolutionary force of the Chadian Basic People's Congress in Tripoli today conducted an angry demonstration condemning the U.S.-French open interference in Chad's internal affairs.

The demonstrators went to the French Embassy carrying placards and slogans, calling for the departure of the French colonialists from Chad. They chanted slogans against U.S. imperialism and its agents, and handed in a statement to the French Embassy.

In the statement, the Chadian revolutionary force declared its strong condemnation of the open French-U.S. interference in the internal affairs of the Chadian people and of the appalling crimes and genocide now committed by the French and U.S. forces against the Chadian people. The statement also demanded that the French and U.S. forces depart from the Chadian territories and leave the Chadian people to decide their own destiny. They stressed that all the French and U.S. interests in the world will be endangered if France and the United States do not withdraw their military presence from Chadian territories.

The demonstrators declared their support of the new GUNT [Transitional Government of National Unity], which works for the fulfillment of the will and aspirations of the Chadian people in liberating their land and establishing security and peace in all Chadian territories.

Al-Qadhdhafi's Help Sought

*LD032232 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland
in Arabic 2115 GMT 3 Jan 87*

[Text] The Chadian Revolutionary Committees' Movement strongly condemned the French-U.S. open interference in the internal affairs of the Chadian people. In a cable to the brother leader of the revolution, the Chadian Revolutionary Committees' Movement stressed that the U.S.-French interference in Chad has created a grave situation in Chad that threatens the existence of the Chadian people, their land, and unity.

The Revolutionary Committees' Movement called on the brother leader of the revolution to intervene personally and immediately to save the Chadian people from the genocide launched by France and the United States against the Chadian people, stressing the civilized relations and historic links between the Libyan Arab and Chadian peoples, and their joint struggle against imperialism and colonialism in order to achieve the joint goal — to liberate Africans and the African continent so that Africa belongs to Africans and the era of the masses will be victorious.

U.S. Involvement Charged*LD041318 Tripoli JANA in English 1117 GMT 4 Jan 87*

[Text] Paris, 'Ayn al-Nar 4, Jamahiriya News Agency — The French newspaper 'Liberation' revealed yesterday several aspects of direct American-French intervention in Chad.

The paper pointed out that [words indistinct] dependent on direct American military assistance to airlift equipment and weapons to [words indistinct] of Ndjamenah.

The paper made clear that an American [word indistinct] aircraft left France on Friday night for Chad loaded with equipment and weapons.

Bombing of Town Denied*LD041852 Tripoli JANA in English 1836 GMT 4 Jan 87*

[Text] Tripoli, 'Ayn al-Nar 4, JANA — Jamahiriya News Agency has learnt that claims by the French war ministry that Libyan Arab jets bombed the Chadian village of Kalait were false and untrue.

The Libyan Arab jets did not bomb the town, (?but) carried out reconnaissance missions to monitor Libyan southern borders with Chad where nearby battles are going on amongst Chadian fighting forces.

French Cited as Threat*LD041910 Tripoli JANA in English 1800 GMT 4 Jan 87*

[Excerpt] Tripoli, Ain al Nar 4, Jamahiriya News Agency — The French Government escalated its direct military intervention in Chad in support of mutinous Habre and his clique in Ndjamenah taking the fighting to the north of parallel 16 where the population of the villages and cities of the area support the legal new Chadian Government of National Unity.

The editor of African affairs in JANA commented on this serious development on the Chadian scene. He said 'the blatant French military intervention, in addition to being a threat to the security and future of this African country, as far as we are concerned is a direct threat to the southern borders of the great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. [no end quotes as received]

The editor of African affairs pointed out that if the French are fighting for the colonialization of Africa and their return to [word indistinct] anew, the Libyans will have no choice but to support the Chadian people in confronting French colonialism and its imperialist extension. Consequently, the support of liberation line in Africa which is a great honour to the Libyans who carry the responsibility of the defence of freedom everywhere as embodied in the declaration of people's power. [sentence as received]

The editor asked: What does the French want behind his intervention in Chad and what does the French coming from inside Europe to this African country want. The answer must be he is seeking to fulfil the dream of return to old colonialism and

the exploitation of African peoples and their resources. This is what France is trying today to find pretexts for.

The editor asserted that Libyans would better defend freedom which also means the defence of their African brothers and the Arab nation before this coming Western colonialism whose banner is being carried by France once again starting from Chad.

[passage omitted]

Forces Contact Al-Qadhafi*LD041916 Tripoli JANA in English 1834 GMT 4 Jan 87*

[Text] Tripoli, Ain al Nar 4, Jamahiriya News Agency — The leader of the revolution received a message from the Chadian revolutionary force in Sabha.

The Chadian revolutionary force lauded the support of al-Fatih Revolution and its leader for the Chadian liberation movement being lead by Acheikh ibn Oumar. The Chadian revolutionary force called in their message for the personal and prompt intervention of the leader to unite militarily and politically all Chadian forces against the puppet regime in Ndjamenah so as to enable the Chadian people to live in freedom and independence.

French Ambassador Summoned*LD042031 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Jan 87*

[Text] We have just received this item of news: The People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison a short while ago summoned the French ambassador in the Great Jamahiriya and handed him an urgent message to his government.

Soviet Envoy Summoned*LD050728 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0717 GMT 5 Jan 87*

[Text] Tripoli, 5 Jan (JANA) — JANA has learned that the Soviet ambassador to the Great Jamahiriya was summoned and was asked to convey an urgent message to the Kremlin because attempts are being made to sacrifice peace on the African Continent for the sake of imperialist ambitions based on false analyses, deception, and blackmail on the part of big powers, the victim of which will be peace in Africa.

Bardai Denies Libya Involved*LD051205 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1100 GMT 5 Jan 87*

[Text] Sabha, 5 Jan (JANA) — Bardai Radio, heard here last night, carried a statement by the Chadian Information Ministry of GUNT [Transitional Government of National Unity], led by Acheikh ibn Oumar Taib, refuting the claims and false reports carried by Paris radio about the occupation of the Fada Oasis by forces of the lackey mutineering clique, agent of colonialism and imperialism in Ndjamenah.

The statement emphasized that the aim of this campaign is to keep the truth from the African public, by misleading them with false reports, as a cover for the imperialist and colonialist military intervention in Chad. The statement added that elements of the mutinous clique, supported by French forces and U.S. experts, launched a treacherous attack on the Fada oasis on 2 January 1987, but their attack was an abysmal failure.

The statement also said that this flagrant aggression is part of the imperialist and colonialist plots aimed at aborting all efforts made by Chad's GUNT and the OAU to promote a peaceful solution to the Chadian problem. It strongly condemned the participation of French and U.S. forces in this internal conflict between Chadian factions. It repudiated claims by the imperialist and colonialist propaganda trumpets implicating the Great Jamahiriya in the current battles in Chad.

OAU's Oumarou Meets Foreign Liaison Official

LD031652 Tripoli JANA in English 1424 GMT 3 Jan 87

[Text] Tripoli, 'Ayn Al-Nar 3, Jamahiriya News Agency — The member of the People's Committee for the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau this morning met with Mr. Ide Oumarou, the secretary general of the Organization of African Unity who is on a visit to great Jamahiriya.

The two sides discussed in this meeting relations between great Jamahiriya and the OAU and the pioneering role being played by the great Al-Fatih revolution within the organization for the liberation of the African continent from all forms of colonialism and imperialism.

Also, the meeting discussed the problems resulting from foreign forces' interference in the affairs of Africa and the situation in southern Africa.

Meets GUNT's Balaam

LD032317 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2115 GMT 3 Jan 87

[Text] Today, the OAU secretary general met Brother Facho Balaam, the foreign minister of the new Chadian GUNT, who explained to the OAU secretary general the situation in Chad and stressed the continuous readiness of GUNT regarding the national reconciliation efforts in Chad according to the OAU resolutions in this concern [as heard].

Praises Libya's Stand

LD041517 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 4 Jan 87

[Text] OAU Secretary General Ide Oumarou has affirmed that the OAU rejects all forms of foreign intervention in the affairs of the African continent.

In a statement to JANA prior to leaving Tripoli International airport at noon today, he denounced the biased information campaigns being waged by the Western information media with

a view to bringing into disrepute the stances of the Great Jamahiriya toward the cause of the Chadian people.

Concluding, he praised the positive efforts exerted by the Great Jamahiriya for ending the current civil war in Chad and bringing national reconciliation between the various warring parties.

SUDAN

Al-Mahdi Interviewed on North-South Relations

NC030510 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 2 Jan 87

[Interview given by Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, prime minister, defense minister, and leader of the Al-Ummah Party, to correspondent Khalil al-Juhayni in Khartoum; date not given — recorded]

[Text] [Al-Juhayni] Mr Prime Minister, the Sudanese people, who are aware of the circumstances affecting their lives, have chosen you to lead them through this critical stage in their history. What are your views on this, and what means are available to you?

[Al-Mahdi] Sudan is now undergoing a unique experiment. It is an experiment in which we are building democracy under conditions of backwardness; an experiment in which Islamic law is being applied under circumstances in which we must take the changing conditions of this age and the need to affirm the right of equality among all Sudanese citizens, irrespective of their religion, into consideration; an experiment in which we must deal with the economic legacy of the defunct regime, and with the need to save our homeland and to build a modern society and economy; and an experiment in which we must face another problem inherited from the defunct regime, which is the strife taking place in southern Sudan. Sudan is dealing with this strife, hoping that a sound solution will be found that can serve as an example for other nations of how best to resolve problems of underdevelopment and of racial and religious minorities. We hope that by overcoming these problems and challenges we will demonstrate a unique experiment in Sudan that can help underdeveloped countries throughout the Third World.

[Al-Juhayni] Mr Prime Minister, you came to power as a result of free and honest elections, which were the pride of every true Arab. Some 8 months have passed since that democratic exercise of elections in Sudan. What is your assessment of the multiparty system and democratic life now?

[Al-Mahdi] It has been no more than 6 months. I think we can say the experiment has been positive. Democracy has been restored, and civil liberties have been fully guaranteed. Political parties have been allowed to resume their activities. Although there are many parties, the basic ideological issues in Sudan have been settled, and we now see a sort of unanimity of views. There were major problems, including the relationship between North and South. Many southerners believed that those in the North would force them to change their religion. On the other hand, some northerners felt that the southerners wished to secede. This was an issue, but, in my opinion, it has now been settled. All

northerners accept the idea of coexistence with the South and common citizenship despite our racial and religious differences. This is acceptable today. At this point, all southerners support unity between North and South. The war that is going on is the product of foreign influence, and is not the result of any domestic factors. This problem is one that has been solved.

The question of development is another matter we have laid to rest. Some leftists used to raise the issue of development on the basis of Marxist ideas. This has now been settled. Everyone now agrees that if we are to achieve social justice, the public sector must take the lead with the private sector's participation. This is another matter that has been settled, though it was a divisive issue in the past.

Another issue that produced polarization and one-upmanship in the past and that has now been settled is our relationship with Egypt. Some Sudanese supported unity with Egypt, while others supported independence.

Those who advocated independence were apprehensive about relations with Egypt. In my opinion, this issue has been resolved. All of the Sudanese support an independent Sudan that maintains special relations and ties with Egypt. This is the conviction of all Sudanese, and it is no longer the subject of differences.

[Al-Juhayni] Mr Prime Minister, in addition to holding this office and that of defense minister, you are also the leader of the new nationalist Al-Ummah Party. What place does this party occupy among the other Sudanese parties?

[Al-Mahdi] It is the Al-Ummah Party. New nationalist is one of its characteristics and not part of its [word indistinct]. As for its place, it is now the largest party. In this capacity, the party does not believe that partisanship should be something that promotes fanaticism or monopoly.

Partisanship should be a form of popular participation in a democratic system, as well as a means of defining the choices available to the people. It should act as a channel for national struggle in which the parties join together to build the homeland on the basis of certain principles.

[Al-Juhayni] Sudan has always played a genuine Arab role. The predominant issue within the Arab arena is that of Arab division. There is disintegration, conflict, suspicion, and mistrust. In your opinion, what role can Sudan play in this issue?

[Al-Mahdi] One of the things we are now considering is to call for a special meeting that will include Arab statesmen, intellectuals, and scientists. This meeting will focus on ways to deal with the problems which we think are the main reasons for the present Arab division.

[Al-Jhayni] Mr Prime Minister, in a statement published in Abu Dhabi you said that you had proposed an initiative to Iran which it has accepted or is about to accept. You also affirmed that you will not reveal the provisions of this initiative in order to ensure its success. My question is this: Is it conditional or unconditional? Are you optimistic about this initiative?

[Al-Mahdi] What I have already said on this subject is sufficient. Anything which I might add now will not help matters. Therefore, I ask you to excuse me.

Preparations Made for Al-Mahdi Visit to Egypt *JN041145 Khartoum SUNA in English 0935 GMT 4 Jan 87*

[Text] Khartoum, Jan. 4 (SUNA) — Extensive contacts between Khartoum and Cairo have apparently been going on over the New Year's holidays aimed at finalizing the long awaited visit to Cairo by Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. The *Sudan Times* reported today. The paper pointed that these contacts have resulted in an agreement between the two sides that the visit should take place without any further delays.

A definite date is expected to be announced in Khartoum and Cairo within the next few days following discussions taking place in Cairo this week between the personal envoy of the prime minister and Egyptian authorities.

A message from the Sudanese premier to President Husni Mubarak of Egypt will be delivered by Industry Minister Mubarak al-Fadil al-Mahdi who will leave for Cairo today, according to *Sudan Times*.

Another message will be delivered to Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi, it said, adding that both messages deal with the recent relations between the two countries and the visit of the premier Al-Mahdi to Egypt.

Preparatory Visit Postponed *NC041520 Paris AFP in English 1459 GMT 4 Jan 87*

[Excerpt] Khartoum, Jan 4 (AFP) — Sudanese Industry Minister Mubarak Al-Mahdi Sunday postponed at the last minute the start of an official visit to Cairo that had been planned as a move to normalise bilateral relations, the Cabinet said here.

A new date for his trip, aimed at preparing the way for an official visit by Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, was to be fixed later, the Cabinet said.

The visit was to be the latest in a series of exchanges by Sudanese and Egyptian officials to ease relations which were strained with the overthrow in April 1985 of President Ja'far Numayri, who was a close ally of Egypt. [passage omitted]

Al-Hindi on Relations With Egypt, Libya, Chad *JN041549 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 2 Jan 87* *pp 52-54*

[Interview with Al-Sharif Zayn al-'Abidin al-Hindi, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, by Sana' al-Sa'id in Cairo on 28 December 1986]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Al-Sa'id] Emotions ran high when the Egyptian forces were accused of entering Hala'ib.

[Al-Hindi] I have never heard of such an accusation. Moreover, Egypt is too considerate with Sudan to encroach on its territory.

[Al-Sa'id] What about Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's visit to Egypt?

[Al-Hindi] A joint committee from the two parties will meet to formulate Egyptian-sudanese relations. At the end of this committee's mission a date will be set for the prime minister's visit to Egypt, and that will be in the near future.

[Al-Sa'id] Sudanese officials have often stressed that the policy of polarization is not in Sudan's interest. This has always been used as an argument against establishing strong ties with Egypt in line with Sudan's desire to adopt a more balanced policy. I wonder if you have now attained the minimum level of good-neighborliness.

[Al-Hindi] There is no doubt that our relationship with all parties to the dialogue are good. What we see with our eyes and feel with our hearts is that our relationship with anyone will never come at the expense of our relationship with Egypt. We seek to enhance our relations with other countries, be they Arab or African, including Egypt. This is because our relations with Egypt are close, longstanding, and genuine. When we come to Egypt we do not do so as diplomats or guests, and when we enter Cairo we feel we are entering Khartoum and this applies to thousands of Sudanese people. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sa'id] What about Ethiopia and Libya in particular?

[Al-Hindi] Ethiopia knows the extent of our close ties with Egypt. Libya, too, understands and appreciates this. We have seen nothing to indicate that Ethiopia views our historical relationship with Egypt with suspicion, nor have we sensed any negative feelings on Libya's part regarding our true links with Egypt. After all, this relationship is basic and has possibilities that might actually make Tripoli join it in the future.

[Al-Sa'id] In a form of unity or what?

[Al-Hindi] I believe beyond any doubt that the first step for any successful unity in the Arab world should be undertaken by Egypt, Sudan, and Libya.

[Al-Sa'id] Has the ground now been paved for unity among these three countries?

[Al-Hindi] Yes, because the present Arab situation requires unity, an exchange of opinions, and coordination of domestic and foreign policies. Even the general situation in the region is pushing matters toward this unity.

[Al-Sa'id] It is then a unity of stands and not a merger of the three countries.

[Al-Hindi] The unity of stands leads to merger and the successful unity survives even if it is initially called a unity of stands. This unity of stands leads to merger as long as it is successful, influential, and interacts with events. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sa'id] What now after the round of negotiations between

Al-Mahdi and Garang in July which were soon suspended following the downing of a civilian airliner in August? Is there a ray of hope that these negotiations will be resumed, or is the military solution now the alternative?

[Al-Hindi] A military solution is the last thing the Sudanese Government wants because it is completely certain that the rebel movement is fabricated and does not possess the means to survive. It also lacks the grounds to claim that it is a worthwhile local movement. Moreover, Garang's behavior proves that his movement is encouraged by others, with many other hands at work. It is a movement which bears no relation to the evident facts of life in Sudan because John Garang has turned a deaf ear to all meetings. He refused to sit with the prime minister at the negotiating table to determine the date of the constitutional conference and failed to cooperate with the Ministry of Peace which was established especially for this movement. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sa'id] The possibility that Sudan will play a role in Chad remains ambiguous. What is your opinion, especially since there are reports about the presence of a large number of Libyans near the Sudanese-Chadian border? Have your worries about the course of events in Chad diminished now, especially since there are indications of large-scale Libyan interference there and of a Libyan desire to maintain control over north Chadian affairs?

[Al-Hindi] First of all, I deny the presence of Libyan troops inside Sudan along the Chadian border. I categorically deny that. Secondly, we are calling now, as we have in the past, for the unity, stability, and progress of Chad. During the transitional government's term and during the current national government's term we have always expressed our readiness to mediate among the conflicting parties so that the situation in this country, which suffered a great deal and was exposed to great destruction, will be stabilized. What is happening in Chad has also given rise to concern in Sudan over the situation along our western border. Additional refugees have been coming in, and this might be a problem for us in the future. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sa'id] How true are the reports of your support for extremists against Uganda?

[Al-Hindi] These claims are baseless and our relations with Uganda are excellent. A joint ministerial committee has been set up to prevent rebel movements from operating against either country Uganda and Sudan have also reached complete agreement on maintaining border security. Supplies are now safely flowing to southern Sudan through Ugandan territory. [passage omitted]

Al-Hindi Says Embassy To Open in Zimbabwe
JN041849 Khartoum SUNA in English 1705 GMT 4 Jan 87

[Text] Khartoum, Jan 4 (SUNA) — The Republic of the Sudan is to open an embassy in Harare, Zimbabwe to boost Sudan's diplomatic presence in southern Africa and to actively follow-up the struggle against the racist regime of South Africa.

Sudanese foreign minister, Al-Sharif Zayn al-'Abidin said in a

statement carried by the independent daily *Al-Ushu'* Sunday that Sudan is ambitious to expand its diplomatic presence in different parts of the world to reflect Sudan's image in these areas and to engage actively in the developments in the various scenes.

Zayn al-'Abidin said the reopening recently of Sudan's embassy in Iran came in the context of Sudan's role in the Islamic world and to create "A kind of balance in our relations".

It is time, the foreign minister said, for the creation of a Sudanese diplomatic representation in Latin America and Australia.

Radio SPLA Carries Garang New Year Message
EA021854 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese
People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT
 2 Jan 87

["Text" of New Year address by Colonel Dr John Garang de Mabior, leader of the SPLM/SPLA, to the Sudanese people on 1 January — recorded]

[Text] Compatriots, comrades-in-arms in the SPLM/SPLA and in the mass movement. I greet you in the name of the Sudanese revolution. I greet you and salute you, fellow countrymen, in the name of a happy and prosperous new Sudan which we are determined to create and, indeed, must create. I greet you on behalf of the SPLM/SPLA Political-Military High Command and all SPLM/SPLA soldiers and members everywhere.

I greet you in the name of the new Sudan, a Sudan freed of all forms of sectarianisms, a new Sudan of peace, democracy, progress and equality for all, irrespective of race, skin color, tribe, family background or religion. I greet and congratulate each and every soldier of the SPLM/SPLA of 104, 105, Jamus, Tiger, Timsah, Jarad, (Mor Mor), Khazuq, Zalzal, Mazlum, Fashoda, Sobat, (Juan), Tingili, (Bukchasa), (Tafel) and all SPLM/SPLA militants within Sudan's armed forces for the great victories you have achieved during 1986 and I am confident that you will achieve even greater political and military victories during 1987.

Compatriots, as you all know the New Year is a time for the individual organization or the whole society to reflect, take into account and to review events of the year that has gone. It is a time for honest self-criticism. It is a time, in Sudan's case, for the masses to critically ask and assess what the 6th April mass uprising has brought to them. It is a time for the masses to ask what the Transitional Military Council and Sadiq's government have done to bring about peace and to improve the living conditions of the masses. It is a time to plan, in the light of the answers to these questions, for the year and years ahead.

Fellow countrymen, 1986 was an important year for the Sudanese people and the SPLM/SPLA. Despite fanatic war-mongering and killing by the enemies of peace in our country, patriots in the Alliance for National Salvation and the SPLM/SPLA worked tirelessly to initiate [as heard] the peace process that culminated in the historic Koka Dam Declaration of March 1986. We strongly believe that the Koka Dam Declaration constitutes an important stepping-stone toward the realization of a just and permanent peace that will effectively end the

long and brutal suffering our country has been subjected to for the last 30 years.

History will record and applaud our common and noble desire in exploring ways of bringing, by national consensus to an end all the ills of the old Sudan. Our brothers and sisters in the National Alliance, particularly the members of the trade and professional unions, and the rest of the peace-loving Sudanese have given us the hope and inspiration that although the building of the new Sudan may not be easy, it is feasible.

We are glad that these forces are making significant political gains, as was shown by their victory during last years elections for the leadership of the unions. We are confident that during 1987 the National Alliance will consolidate itself and score more victories for the Sudanese people.

Fellow countrymen, what followed after the Koka Dam Conference is too well known to most of you so that we do not need to recount how the collective and well-intentioned efforts by Sudanese committed to the resolution of the basic problems of the nation by peaceful means have been aborted by the adherents of the old Sudan of inequality and (in)justice.

The Transitional Military Council which was basically sectarian in its attitude and composition and diametrically opposed to the desired change leading to the birth of the new Sudan made the return to power of the old sectarian political parties possible. This was the historical mission of the Transitional Military Council, that is, to (repel) our struggle to build a solid basis for national unity and to bring back into power semifeudal sectarian parties, dominated by two families.

As expected, the old sectarian political parties have never changed their vision of the Sudan. To them our country is their property and they do not care for a moment about the welfare of the majority of the masses of our people from the four corners of the republic. This is evidently shown by their abysmal failure to attend to the daily problems of the ordinary citizen. Basic commodities are now in short supply for the poor who form the vast majority of the population. Without shame the sectarian political parties and their counterparts in the military have transformed our country from being a breadbasket to an empty basket of famine, war and hatred.

The Sudan is now a very poor country and in a state of war, a war which would have been brought to a halt, had not the sectarian ruling families created obstacles, one after the other, to further peace dialogue whose foundation was laid down at Koka Dam.

But despite these road-blocks put in the path of peace by the warmongers in Khartoum, who openly talk of a military solution to the Sudanese problems, we are still committed to peace. To the Sudanese masses, we reiterate that we shall not abandon all genuine moves by all patriotic Sudanese who agree with us that the Koka Dam Declaration is the right and first step towards achievement of peace and stability.

However, should the enemies of peace elect war, as they have, as they daily say, the SPLA will have no choice but to defend itself.

We repeat: We do not choose war, but it is imposed on us by the belligerent attitude of the sectarian rulers who have for the last 7 years refused to listen to the voice of reason, which calls for equality and justice among all Sudanese.

Compatriots, I underline and warn that it is the height of absurdity, that it is irresponsible, divisive and unprecedented for anyone who calls himself prime minister of the whole Sudan to boast and brag over the international and domestic news media that he is going to exterminate southerners, Nuba's and others who do not fall within his definition of *awlad al-balad* [indigenous people]. I want to assure those who are so threatened with extermination by Sadiq al-Mahdi that the SPLM-SPLA will not allow any (?sectors) of the Sudanese people to be exterminated or to exterminate others, and that we in the SPLA, we have the power and will to honor this promise.

Compatriots, we end this message with our sincere wish for a happy New Year, which could be possible if the forces of peace, unity, love and real brotherhood succeed to defeat the schemes of the elements of sectarianism, division, hatred and greed. We call on all patriotic forces to untie ranks and to drown the voices of those who shamelessly and treasonably call for the extermination of their fellow countrymen. We are confident that the forces of peace and the new Sudan look forward to 1987 as the year of peace, not a year of exterminating each other as Sadiq al-Mahdi is preaching.

I want to assure the Sudanese people and the SPLA soldiers that the SPLA is stronger than it was in 1986 despite what the enemy says. And that we shall never betray the Sudanese revolution and that at the same time we shall always stand for a just and permanent peace. To this we are committed.

Again, greetings and best wishes for 1987. Victory to the Sudanese people, down with sectarianism, long live the new and great united Sudan. Thank you very much.

'Umar on IMF Reservations About Economy
JN041632 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 4 Jan 87

[Text] Khartoum, 4 Jan (SUNA) — Dr Bashir 'Umar, minister of finance and economic planning, has said that the IMF showed an understanding of Sudan's economic program but expressed some reservations about it. The finance minister told employees of the planning commission at the Finance and Economic Planning Ministry today that if the IMF rejects Sudan's economic program then the government will do its best to promote and consolidate bilateral relations with the funding countries.

His excellency asserted that the Arab funds cooperate with and support Sudan, pointing out that they had voiced a readiness to make investments and provide funds for investment projects. The finance minister said that the people of Sudan suffer from a lack of well-studied investment projects awaiting funds, which is considered a problem of how to use anticipated capital. He also asserted that the Arab private sector seeks to make investments in the country.

On expatriates and the possibility of their contributing to the country's economy, the finance minister pointed out that expatriates in Kuwait established a holding company and that expatriates in Saudi Arabia will establish a similar company. The minister explained that the government has proposals for these companies to work in the field of financing necessary consumer products, providing raw materials for agricultural and industrial production, and providing investment capital. In conclusion, the minister expressed optimism that the government will succeed in overcoming the deteriorating situation in the country.

ETHIOPIA

Mengistu Urges Vigilance in Speech to Academy
EA032259 Addis Ababa in Amharic to Neighboring Countries 1600 GMT 3 Jan 87

[Text] Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam said as we have reached the final phase of the people achieving direct powers of ownership, our enemies, who realize their efforts are becoming fruitless, might intensify their mission of destruction. Therefore, it is the obligation of every true citizen to be extra vigilant to counter any conspiracy. Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, WPE Central Committee secretary general, PMAC chairman, and commander in chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, said this today when he awarded various prizes and certificates to the 50th intake of competitive cadets of Hurso Military Academy in Harere.

In his speech, the comrade secretary general said at a time when we were establishing the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia [PDRE], which was closely linked to the success of our objectives, it was a great revolutionary obligation of all citizens who loved their country as individuals and as groups to vigilantly guard our unity and revolution. Struggle based on determination is expected from every true and honest citizen since the efforts made will determine the success of programs for various sectors.

Our comrade revolutionary leader pointed out that while we were struggling for a strong and united Ethiopia and genuine people's freedom, they [the enemies] were struggling to see a divided and weak Ethiopia that had lost its national pride and to see its people dominated by foreign interests. He went on to say our struggle and sacrifice would not fail as our enemies hoped, but would preserve the national and revolutionary pride for which our heroic fathers and true comrades had shed their blood.

Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam said since our objective was to build a society free of exploitation based on peace and equality in which the working people would contribute their knowledge and labor and benefit from the results of their work, it was obvious this would frighten imperialists and reactionaries. While, on the one hand, they were trying to create confusion by pretending to be sympathizers, on the other hand, they were providing every kind of destructive weapon to their mercenaries to destroy development infrastructures built by the sweat and blood of the broad masses and to terrorize citizens in some areas.

SOMALIA

Djibouti Commerce Minister Arrives for Talks
EA032256 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1700 GMT 3 Jan 87

[Excerpt] Musa Buraleh Robleh, minister for commerce, transport and tourism of the Republic of Djibouti, and his delegation arrived at Mogadishu International Airport this afternoon on a week's visit to Somalia.

Interviewed in the airport's VIP lounge, the Djibouti minister said his visit aimed to strengthen cooperation between the two countries in commerce and transport, especially sea and air links. On trade between the two countries, Musa Buraleh Robleh said this was progressing very well, and senior officials from the two countries continued to implement the trade agreements signed previously in Mogadishu and Djibouti. The minister added agreements between the two countries in promoting trade had so far achieved great success. [passage omitted]

Correction to Radio Halgan Report on Barre Health

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Radio Halgan on 'Deteriorating' Health of Barre," published in the 2 January Middle East & Africa *Daily Report*, page R 3, right column, first paragraph, last line:

...love of freedom and hatred of oppression. (new paragraph) Reports from inside the country add that the health of dictator Barre, who was seriously injured in a car accident on 23 May, is deteriorating. He also had cancer before. Ill health prevented him from addressing the 29 December rally in which people were forced to show their support for his election. (supplying dropped paragraph).

TANZANIA

President Mwinyi's New Year Address to Nation
EA312245 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1715 GMT 31 Dec 86

[New Year's address by President Ali Hassan Mwinyi — live]

[Excerpts] Dear citizens, 1986 comes to end tonight. The new year, 1987, will commence soon. We welcome it with open arms. I wish to take this opportunity to send you all my best wishes for success in the new year.

We all realize the year ending tonight has been a difficult one for us, especially during the first half. We were faced by an acute shortage of diesel and gasoline, a shortage of tires, lack of lubricants, and a shortage of foodstuffs, especially in Dar es Salaam. Our current situation has not yet improved much, although it is slightly better. We are still faced with huge economic problems. As a result of these problems, throughout the year we experienced an acute shortage of industrial commodities such as soap, corrugated iron sheets, and various other building materials.

We also experienced a shortage of foodstuffs to which many of us are accustomed, such as wheat and sugar. Sometimes these were available in the country, but even so we failed to distribute them to consumers because of a lack of transportation.

But it is very encouraging that, despite these problems, we have been able to maintain our unity, thus living in peace and tranquility, in an exemplary manner. All this has been possible as a result of your great perseverance, stemming from your understanding

of the origins and causes of our problems. I therefore wish to thank you very much for your humility and forbearance throughout this period of problems and difficulties.

I wish to remind you that after a difficult period there is a period of relief. He who perseveres does not regret it. It is also my duty to express gratitude to you not only for appreciating our problems but also for your readiness to tackle them. He who falls down does not stay down. He stands up, shakes off the dust, and resumes the march. And this is what all of us Tanzanians did. I have been greatly impressed by the way all the people, in general, responded to the party and government's call to increase food and cash crops. [passage omitted]

The harvests obtained during the season, especially the food harvest, were very encouraging. Maize, rice, and wheat harvests were bigger than during the previous year. This increase has greatly helped to alleviate the food problem, especially in the towns. On the whole, the food situation is not bad at all. Even production of cash crops has increased. A good example is cotton. The cotton harvest this year was bigger than in many past years.

But I wish to stress our economic problems still persist, and they are still big. We must face them like men by increasing our efforts. The government on its part has begun a 3-year economic recovery program. This is our plan, and for this reason everyone of us is expected to participate in it by playing his role. There will be difficulties, but these will be temporary. Since reactivating the economy is similar to getting a decayed tooth extracted, there is bound to be pain. But even if it is severe, it is only a passing pain. If you persevere a little, it will go. If you are afraid of having it removed for fear of temporary pain you will have even more agonizing, intermittent pain for the rest of your life.

I therefore call on you citizens to put up with this temporary pain while we reactivate the economy. During this period, stress will be placed on increasing food and cash crops to reduce food problems and increase foreign exchange earnings.

The government, for its part, will continue to reactivate vital economic services, especially in transportation, communications, energy and water so these sectors can assist production efforts. The success of this program, as I have said earlier, will greatly depend on the efforts and cooperation of every one of us, especially in agriculture. [passage omitted]

Lastly, I wish to emphasize the importance of continuing cooperation in the defense and consolidation of our unity, solidarity, perseverance, harmony, and security, the security of public funds and our nation's security in general. This is the only way to maintain peace, harmony, and love in our country. Let us cooperate in fighting all whose evil motive is to sabotage our efforts to reactivate our economy. In unity let us build our nation, on the basis of human equality. I wish you great successes in the new year, 1987. Thank you.

UGANDA

President Museveni's New Year Message to Nation

EA011206 Kampala Domestic Service in English

2100 GMT 31 Dec 86

[New Year message to the nation by President Yoweri Museveni on 31 December, place not specified — live or recorded]

[Text] Fellow Ugandans: I find this a particularly auspicious occasion to extend our gratitude to all Ugandans for the endurance, the patience and the oneness of purpose which made possible the victory that has attained us this peace. The year 1986 closes on a note of great hope for this country, in the same way as the year 1987 marks a new beginning in the life of this nation.

The achievements recorded up to date, particularly the peace that we now enjoy, will enable us to look to the future with a new confidence. Let me remind us all, however, that the peacetime brings its own high demands on us and puts to a gruelling test the nation's ability to realize and translate its potential.

As you all may remember, the end of 1985, and the beginning of 1986 was characterized by the continued atrocities of the Okello clique against the innocent citizens of Uganda. There were massacres in Kabasanda, Kiriri, Kasala, Luwero town etc. Even when we signed the Nairobi peace accord, the atrocities did not abate. Meanwhile the arming of dangerous characters continued. Ex-Amin soldiers were armed massively. The Karamojong cattle raiders were armed and brought to Mityana, their mission being to move to the west and reward themselves with all the cattle in that area. Kampala was parcelled out amongst the warring factions. One sector belonged to Kayiira's group, another to the UNRE [Ugandan National Rescue Front], another to Nkwanga's group, and so on and so forth. This country was in danger of disintegration.

When we made the decisive move to end all this chaos, it was because we realized that there was no other peaceful way in which this could be achieved. It now seems a long way off? But nobody should forget that this was the Ugandan reality a mere 12 months ago.

Ever since, peace has been restored in the whole of central, western, eastern and west Nile regions as well as in Lira and Apac districts. Only Kitgum and Gulu and some (?Eastern) Karamoja areas have continued to experience insecurity. I would like, however, to assure the people of Uganda that these lawless elements in the north and the north-east are on the run. Without going into much details, I would like to inform all of you that our Army has given a bloody nose both to the Okello misguided elements and the cattle raiders. And because of this there is now some peace in the whole of Kumi and Soroti districts as well as in southern Karamoja. i.e. (Namaru), Nabilatuk and (Mafanj) areas.

It should be remembered that these rebels ceased being a military threat when we defeated them right here in Kampala in January 1986. All they are doing ever since is to fight a rearguard action against a force which is getting stronger and stronger numeri-

cally and qualitatively. That is a brief survey of what I regard as the balance of forces in the continuing struggle for freedom in Uganda, which the people of Uganda have been (?waiting) for for many, many years.

We have never wanted to rely solely on the military method in solving problems. If there was any political way in which we could accommodate these thugs, we would have done it as indeed we did with so many other groups, some of which were opposed to us during the struggle. Unfortunately these people have got a criminal record that even surpasses the one of Amin. Why? Because although Amin killed, he never killed as massively as these people did.

Therefore, the furthest one can go is to declare a general amnesty for certain categories of some of these rebels. Such an amnesty would only cover those who did not order killings or who did not personally initiate killings. Those who killed under order of somebody would be excused. The detailed amnesty document will be worked out and it is being read out on radio in the course of the next few weeks.

The remnants of the cattle raiders have shifted to the Morulem areas. We are, however, pursuing them. In the Kitgum, Gulu areas we have inflicted such heavy losses on these misguided elements that quite a number of them are now surrendering.

The rebels, in a desperate attempt to continue terrorising the people, have resorted to massacring whole families. This exposes the real nature of the thugs who are organizing these poor fellows. It used to be thought that the Okello-Obote army were killing people in Uwero because of tribalism. The tribalism that they were exhibiting was merely one of the manifestations of the fascist nature of these thugs, who have caused untold misery to the people of Uganda for the last 24 years. Proof of this is now (?being) [word indistinct], in that these thugs are killing people in an area which is supposed to be their own district, indiscriminately.

We have now covered two phases of our operations against these thugs in the areas of Kitgum and Gulu. Phase one was to defeat their thrust, which was aimed at capturing towns and major strategic centers. That is to ensure that they do not have (?or) control any part of Uganda in which they can organize their rebel activities freely. This has been achieved by putting major forces in all the important centers in the districts of Kitgum and Gulu. In some areas we have got big forces of up to Gombolola [an administrative area] or even further level, depending on the type of enemy activities in the area.

The third thing which has now started is to mop up the whole area and ensure that the rebels there will not cause any trouble any more.

Otherwise, we are ready to defeat these rebels by military force as we have done all along. I would like once again to warn any foreign interest or interests that may want to exploit the situation in the north of Uganda that they will be playing with fire if they give any aid or comfort to these criminals who have massacred the people of Uganda for more than 20 years.

As far as the economy is concerned, and in spite of our frugal style of work, Especially in relation to use of foreign exchange, The economic situation has not yet improved. This is because we have had to pay a huge debt of \$200 million per annum left by Milton Obote. We (?are being) able to keep current with much of the deficit payments. In addition we have been able to make some advances in some areas like the purchase of trucks, rehabilitation of cotton ginneries, coffee and tea factories, as well as partial rehabilitation of some of the factories that make consumer goods for the people.

Within the next few weeks we are going to put out a revised investment plan which will prioritize the many competing economic demands and balance them with the resources available to the country, both from within and from without. Surprisingly, this rather obvious way of working is regarded as an innovation in the history of economic management in Uganda. I will have more to say about this later on in the month. All I can say at the moment is that this goes a long way to tell the long story of economic mismanagement in Uganda.

It is obvious that you cannot plan as if you have got endless resources but always plan within your means. As far as the consumer goods are concerned, the situation is going to improve in this new year. Both the method of procurement and distribution of consumer goods is getting perfected. We are also in the process of taking a hard look at all the personnel involved in the procurement and distribution of all consumer goods in the country. As I have said on many occasions, I will not tolerate the frustrating of the Ugandan people by a bunch of officials whose own interest is to make illegal earnings through the manipulation of the decision-making machinery to the detriment of the public. All in all, in the early part of the year we shall definitely expect to receive more quantities of hoes, blankets, soap, salt, sugar, drugs, vehicles and even tractors. I am aware that arrangements for all these have been made. It was a pity that some of these things did not come in time for Christmas. They will definitely come in the new year. I will take a personal interest in ensuring that they come.

Countrymen, I am looking forward to more hard work on the part of everybody in this new year. Then and only then can we realize our objectives. Pacifying this country and rehabilitating it is definitely within our means. Let everybody play his or her part so that by the end of 1987 we all are in a position to enjoy a better life. I wish each and every family good health, peace and happiness. A very happy new year to you all. Thank you very much.

CHAD

Fighting Escalates in Major Weekend Offensive

FANT Announces Fada Battle

*AB021353 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1330 GMT 2 Jan 87*

[Communique issued by the Chadian National Armed Forces High Command on 2 January]

[Text] Violent fighting is currently going on at the entrance of Fada, at the famous Number 40 Point. The fighting began this morning, 2 January 1987, at 0530 [0430 GMT] and is continuing with unprecedented violence. Loyal to their noble mission, the Chadian National Armed Forces are determined to mercilessly crush Al-Qadhdhafi's soldiery.

The FANT troops are more determined than ever to drive the barbaric Libyan slave-traders out of the sacred territories of the fatherland.

AFP on Fada Fighting

AB021705 Paris AFP in English 1641 GMT 2 Jan 87

["This dispatch was submitted to the Chadian authorities for approval" — AFP subslug]

[By Bernard Apfeldorfer]

[Excerpt] Ndjamena, Jan 2 (AFP) — Chadian government troops were locked in fighting, sometimes hand-to-hand, with Libyan forces around the northern oasis of Fada on Friday, the National Armed Forces (FANT) said here in a statement. But by midday on Friday, there was no indication that the government forces, which attacked Fada at 5:30 a.m. (0430 GMT) had taken the oasis, which is said to be a garrison for some 1,000 Libyan troops.

There was speculation here that the government attack could signal the start of a long-awaited attempt by President Hisssein Habre to retake the mainly-desert north of his country from Libyan troops and their Chadian allies, although there was no confirmation of this.

A success at Fada could increase pressure on France to further boost its military aid to the government, perhaps by sending the troops it keeps in the south to back up the FANT forces in the north, analysts said.

On Thursday, in the first official confirmation that FANT troops had been sent north of the 16th parallel, the government said its forces had inflicted a "stinging defeat" on Libyans at the remote north-western oasis of Zouar, on the fringes of the Tibesti Mountains. The 16th parallel had previously marked the limit of government influence, although small groups of soldiers are known to have gone north of it in recent months to negotiate with disaffected groups of rebels.

France, which with the United States has been the main backer of the President Hisssein Habre's government, has said it will not send any of the troops it maintains in the south to fight the Libyan forces north of the line. [passage omitted]

High Command Communique

*AB021908 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1845 GMT 2 Jan 87*

[Communique issued by the Chadian National Armed Forces High Command on 2 January]

[Text] As we informed you this morning, the Chadian National Armed Forces [FANT] have, after several hours of bitter fighting, despite the fire power of the Libyan arsenal, inflicted a historic defeat on the Libyan invasion troops. Since 1700 hours [1600 GMT], the FANT are in complete control of Fada and its environs. The enemy, in confusion, has been brought to his knees. The detailed outcome of this hard fight will be brought to you later.

The FANT are determined to continue the struggle against the Libyan aggressors until final victory.

3 Jan Communique

*AB031628 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1330 GMT 3 Jan 87*

[Communique issued by the Chadian National Armed Forces High Command on 3 January]

[Text] As expected, following the fall of the Libyan slave-dealing dogs, Al-Qadhdhafi's blood-thirsty [words indistinct] broke into a savage, blind, and criminal bombardment of Fada and Zouar aimed especially at the civilian population. The bombings were characterized by the intensive use of napalm.

The counterattack of the glorious FANT was immediate and already a combat helicopter has been destroyed at Fada.

The bombings, which began at 0700 [0600 GMT], are still continuing in Fada and Zouar.

Also, the result of the war which led to the liberation of Fada will be made known shortly.

Communique on Zouar Battle

*AB031914 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1845 GMT 3 Jan 87*

[Communique issued by the Chadian National Armed Forces High Command on 3 January]

[Text] We announced this morning that after aerial bombing of Fada and Zouar, the Libyan enemy has once more launched a land attack on FANT positions at Zouar and [name indistinct] by its usual means. This attack is a desperate maneuver by the Libyans to give false hope to their fleeing troops.

As usual, the FANT are heroically resisting the enemy.

Fighting continues.

JANA Denies Libyan Raid

LD031624 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1605 GMT 3 Jan 87

[Text] Tripoli, 3 Jan (JANA) — French radio today carried fabricated reports claiming that Libyan aircraft had raided the towns of Zouar and Fada in Chad, and that a helicopter claimed to be Libyan was destroyed.

Commenting on these lies, the JANA African affairs editor says that the French radio report is an unfounded fabrication because the great Libyan Arab People's Socialist Jamahiriya has no forces in Chad and has not participated in the current fighting between the forces of GUNT under Achiekh ibn Oumar and the forces of mutineer Habre supported by French and U.S. forces.

JANA on Fada Battle

LD031557 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1420 GMT 3 Jan 87

[Text] Paris, 3 Jan (JANA) — A GUNT official spokesman has confirmed that mutineer Habre has not entered the town of Fada and that his forces did not take part in the fighting at all.

The spokesman, whose statement was also confirmed by sources very close to Goukouni Oueddei, added that mutineer Habre is a first class mercenary and liar who has exploited the disagreement between GUNT factions to claim control of the liberated areas. He added that Fada could only be under the control of either the People's Armed Forces or the Revolutionary Democratic Council, or both, and that neither side would permit mutineer Habre to reach Fada.

The spokesman also said that if Habre succeeds in anything, it would be in his blackmail of the French Government and the U.S. Administration to involve them in his problems in which he sinks deeper every day, as well as in deceiving naive Chadians.

4 Jan Communique

AB040816 Ndjamea Domestic Service in French 0620 GMT 4 Jan 87

[Communique issued by the Chadian National Armed Forces High Command on 4 January]

[Text] As we announced this morning, here is the report on the fighting between the valiant FANT and the Libyan aggression forces on 2 and 3 January 1987 at Fada.

Losses suffered by the enemy: 784 Libyans killed, 81 captured. Recovered equipment: 13 T-55 tanks, [words indistinct] 120-mm, 7 BM-21's, 16 BMP's, 6 ground support Marchetti aircraft, an entire radar station, 4 AMN-90, 2 PRDN, 6 122-mm cannons, 4 107-mm [words indistinct] 20 106-mm cannons, 14 85-mm cannons, 17 armored cars, 5 communication sets, 3

Mercedes transport vehicles, 5 ambulances, 4 workshop vehicles, 2 road graders, [words indistinct] ammunition of all calibers and fuel. Also recovered are many Toyota vehicles SAM-7's and various light weapons of all calibers.

Enemy's destroyed equipment: 1 war helicopter, 86 T-55 tanks, 5 (?37-mm cannons), 33 BMP's, 8 85-mm cannons, 12 Mercedes transport vehicles, 5 armored cars. Many (?fleeing troops), scattered in the rocks, are being looked for.

On the friends' side we deplore 18 troops killed. Glory to our martyrs heroically killed on the battlefield; (?54) wounded; three [words indistinct] one 120-mm cannon destroyed.

As you can see, the report is impressive. The Libyan forces with considerable troops and equipment and with the machiavellian objective to occupy our entire territory will face the valiant FANT troops who are determined and decided to foil their annexation plan for our dear fatherland.

Further on Zouar Casualties

AB041244 Ndjamea Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 4 Jan 87

[Communique issued by the Chadian National Armed Forces High Command on 4 January]

[Text] This afternoon, 3 January 1987 [as heard], we announced that fighting had resumed between the FANT and the Libyan aggression forces at the outskirts of Zouar. Here is the final result: Losses on the enemy side: 41 Libyan soldiers and mercenaries killed, including the officer Lieutenant Brahim Mahammad; 10 prisoners of war including 2 Malians, 3 Niger nationals, 1 Algerian, and 4 Libyans. Equipment destroyed: 4 T-55 tanks, 3 BM-21's, 2 Toyota transport vehicles. Equipment captured: 1 Toyota transport vehicle, 68 light weapons of all calibers.

Losses on the friends' side: We deplore a martyr who fell gloriously on the battlefield.

The report supplements the one we gave earlier on the fighting in Fada and shows a striking defeat of the Libyan aggression forces in all battles engaged with the valiant Chadian National Armed Forces.

Libyan Air Attack Reported

AB041924 Ndjamea Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 4 Jan 87

[Communique issued by the Chadian National Armed Forces High Command on 4 January]

[Text] The town of Arada in the Biltine region was bombed today, 4 January 1987, at 1400 local time by four MiG's of the Libyan Air Force. The barbaric and criminal Libyan Air force, like a wounded and mad animal, in its inability to face the Chadian National Armed Forces [FANT], is now attacking defenseless Chadian civilians instead.

The FANT will make the Libyan bandits pay very dearly for their cowardly and shameful bombardments of our courageous people.

Oum-Chalouba-Kalait Bombed

AB041755 Paris AFP in English 1743 GMT 4 Jan 87

[Excerpts] Ndjamen, Jan 4 (AFP) — Libyan jets, for the first time in 11 months, struck south of Chad's 16th parallel Sunday, bombing the town of Arada and the government base at Oum-Chalouba-Kalait, Chadian government sources said. [passage omitted]

Four Soviet-built MiGs bombed Arada, 120 kilometers (80 miles) south of the 16th parallel, Chad government radio reported. Chadian sources said the aircraft made a single pass over the town before swinging northwards. They were unable to say if there were any casualties.

In Paris, the French Defence Ministry confirmed the account. French officials said the attackers apparently were MiG-23S although Chad radio identified the raiders as older MiG-21S.

A few hours later, the Chadian ambassador in Paris Ahmad Allam-mi, announced that Oum-Chalouba-Kalait, about 30 kilometers (20 miles) south of the 16th parallel, was also bombed.

Oum-Chalouba-Kalait is a major base for government forces, and military analysts here said it had probably served as a springboard for the successful assault last Friday on the Libyan-held oasis of Fada, in the country's northeast. [passage omitted]

Libya Concentrating at Airfields

AB051024 Paris AFP in French 1004 GMT 5 Jan 87

[Text] Ndjamen, 5 Jan (AFP) — Libya has concentrated on several airbases in Libya and northern Chad a large number of aircraft, it was stated on 5 January by Mr Moumine Togui Hamidi, the Chadian secretary of state at the presidency in charge of information and orientation.

The Ouadi-Doum (northeast of Faya-Largeau) and Aouzou (extreme northwest Chad) bases occupied by the Libyan forces and the Maaten-Sarra Base (on Libyan territory) have been reinforced considerably, the minister said, and MiG-23, Tupolev-22, and Soukhoi planes and helicopters have arrived at these bases.

According to Chadian sources, Ndjamen expects an intensification of air raids by Libya throughout northern Chad.

Chad Radio Comments

AB050730 Ndjamen Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 5 Jan 86

[Text] The air attack by the Libyans on Arada, during which one person was killed and four women and a boy wounded, is first of all an indication of a savage and barbaric revenge attempt on the civilian population, since Arada is not particularly a military base and all the victims are civilians. Furthermore, this raid is a demonstration of the Libyans' cowardness and incapacity before the Chadian National Armed Forces.

In fact, with this raid, Libya has launched a war of towns with all kinds of consequences. Finally, this raid is the materialization of Libya's statement that it will no longer respect the 16th parallel.

Meanwhile, if we consider the equipment recovered by the FANT, the Libyans have used various types of powerful weapons, an indication of Libya's determination to occupy Chad at all costs. If we consider these powerful weapons, which were not used jokingly, and this raid on a locality, the security of which was in principle guaranteed, there is no more excuse, no more pretext. As the president said recently, the facts are clearly there to be seen. The ball is now in the allies' court.

Government Lifts Review of Journalists Reports

AB051022 Paris AFP in French 0948 GMT 5 Jan 87

[Text] Ndjamen, 5 Jan (AFP) — The Chadian Government decided to lift as of today the measure aimed at checking reports written by journalists in Ndjamen before they are published, announced Moumine Togui Hamidi, secretary of state in charge of information and orientation.

This measure had been implemented on 23 December 1986 "to safeguard" Chadian "soldiers' lives." It was "circumstantial," the minister recalled.

"To avoid any misinterpretation of this decision and show to the international public our desire not to hide anything concerning the events taking place in our country, the government has decided to suspend this measure," the information minister added.

Moumine Togui Hamidi, however, called on journalists "to be responsible and not to indulge in sensationalism and scoops but rather to help the Chadian people liberate themselves."

Many journalists are expected in Ndjamen Monday afternoon, according to a Chadian official source.

Acheikh Ibn Oumar Address on Future of GUNT

AB011051 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1845 GMT 31 Dec 86

[Address by GUNT President Acheikh ibn Oumar; date and place not given — recorded]

[Excerpts] Heroic fighters of our National Liberation Army [ANL]; militants of the Chadian revolutionary movement; dear Chadians: Chad, the Chadian land, its resources, and its cultural heritage are a common wealth for all the children of this country who therefore have the same rights and the same obligations. Unfortunately, this obvious and elementary principle has been systematically trampled under foot by the successive regimes which took turns leading Chad. This is the immediate cause of the woes that have bedevilled our country for many decades and that have led to the tragic situation confronting us today, the latest episode of which are the changes made within the GUNT last month.

Dear compatriots, after the resignation of the former GUNT vice president last June and the spectacular act of betrayal by the former president, whose GUNT merely rallied to the imperialist and reactionary side, many observers thought that the Chadian people's national liberation struggle was on the verge of total collapse. These messengers of ill omen forgot that the people have always survived the political deaths of their leaders. [passage omitted]

After every sad episode in Chad's history, the Chadian people never lost heart. On the contrary, they have redoubled their vigilance and determination, and the liberation struggle has gained momentum and become more radical. [passage omitted]

The recent upheaval within the GUNT was generally expected. It will be recalled that the GUNT was established in 1979, that is 7 years ago, and has been based for 3 years in Ndjameña and for 4 years outside Ndjameña. During these years, every militant — fighters, civil servants, and simple citizens — realized that something was wrong with the GUNT, [words indistinct] because in spite of the backing of the people, it continued to experience failures. Its scanty financial resources continued to dwindle unexplainably. It always seemed that the enemy was militarily superior and had better weapons. Conflicts within or between factions were fanned — if not triggered — by the highest GUNT officials.

But these elements, which were notorious for their betrayal of the revolutionary cause and for their overt connivance with the imperialists and the tribalistic dictators in Ndjameña, were never challenged. Their ties with the friendly and brotherly countries had deteriorated.

In the face of this chaotic situation which was being perpetuated, internal contradictions were justifiably increasing and worsening to climax in the fighting of (?February-March) 1986 when all the fighters and political leaders of (?all) the factions awoke to the overt betrayal [words indistinct]. In addition to this, there was the unilateral and arbitrary decision made at the last minute to boycott the Loubomo conference on national reconciliation in the People's Republic of Congo. This irresponsible attitude turned out to be a plot aimed at restoring the political image of the Ndjameña puppet dictatorship on the one hand and at slandering the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyyah as the obstacle to peace in Chad on the other hand.

In view of this serious, evergrowing crisis within the GUNT, it was necessary to find a (?methodical) solution. [words indistinct] the Cotonou I accords, the normal procedure was to convene an extraordinary meeting of the signatories, namely the faction leaders. A request to this effect was sent to the former GUNT president by the permanent Secretariat of the Supreme Liberation Council. But no reply was received until last May. The situation had become very tense and the regular structures of the coalition were at a complete standstill. Then the machination of 22 May occurred in Faya, where brothers (Abdel Tahir Suleiman), Hamir Abdoulaye, Amadou Mahamat Kankan, and many other ANL officers and fighters were arrested, tortured, and assassinated by the deputy chief of staff on accusations that they were agents infiltrated into Faya to lay mines at the residence of the president and [words indistinct].

This stupid act dealt a fatal blow to the confidence, cohesion, and unity of the various components of the ANL which had up until then been spared the political conflict [words indistinct]. The result is well known. There was general mobilization on regional and tribal levels to eliminate the (?officers) of the ANL troops stationed at Fada, [words indistinct] of rebels and traitors of the revolutionary cause [words indistinct] (?in the pay) of the tribalistic dictators in Ndjameña.

It is evident that international imperialism, especially the French and the U.S. imperialists — could not fail to seize such an opportunity to try to deal the final blow to the ANL and the GUNT in the hope of burying the revolutionary struggle of the Chadian people. It was then that a large-scale imperialist and reactionary scheme was designed to strengthen the Ndjameña puppet dictatorship by supplying troops and equipment to initiate attacks against the ANL positions in the liberated territories and subsequently attack the territory of the Great Jamahiriyyah in the hope of (destroying) the people's power in this model country and definitively discouraging all other oppressed people from emulating the salutary example of the Libyan Arab people.

It is (?against this background) that we undertook to reorganize the GUNT. It goes without saying that the task lying ahead is very, very great. We must both reorganize and strengthen the ANL, revive the administrative machinery, [words indistinct], respond to the hysteric campaign launched by the imperialistic and reactionary media, and achieve the unity of the various political trends and the strengthening of the strategic alliance with the Great al-Fatih Revolution, [words indistinct] and so on.

As we have already said, it is going to be very difficult, and we must above all (?act) very cautiously because the accomplishment of this task is the precondition for the achievement of the Chadian people's aspirations for peace, unity, stability, and prosperity.

(?To succeed) it goes without saying that a certain number of conditions must be fulfilled. First, we must depart from the habit whereby the government and other political leaders were left with the entire responsibility for the affairs of the nation. On the contrary, a revolutionary struggle can only succeed when all the masses of the people are totally mobilized at all times [words indistinct] go to seek refuge in the neighboring countries includ-

ing political leaders, administrative officers, fighters, revolutionary militants, students, workers, and so on.

Second, we must honestly draw lessons from past experiences instead of contenting ourselves with shifting all the blame onto former President Goukouni Oueddei, because he was himself only a victim manipulated by the clique of [words indistinct]. If we are a little honest, we must recognize that we have all deviated from the revolutionary course. We have engaged in the macabre game of [words indistinct] tribes within factions, ethnic groups within tribes, and chiefs within clans. We only restore our credibility before the masses if we courageously and (?honestly fight) our old habits, mentalities, and selfish interests, [words indistinct].

Third, (?historic) and political conditions caused divisions within the liberation movement [words indistinct] we must realize that neither the Revolutionary Democratic Council, the Chadian Armed Forces [FAT], the First Army, the Western Armed Forces, nor the Democratic National Union, [words indistinct] can operate as a definitive framework for the victory of the Chadian (?forces, not even when) they come together in a more or less convincing federation.

In this regard, the Cotonou I Accords, the renewal of the political leadership of the country, the current formation of a new government, and the upcoming formation of the CNL [National Liber

ation Council] and so on [words indistinct] to (?overcome) the crisis and create a certain conducive working atmosphere; these measures cannot be regarded as objectives in themselves. [words indistinct] because the true and profound (?significance) of the Chadian people's struggle is the total dismantling of all the factions and grouplets, the total eradication of the regionalist and tribalistic spirit from within our midst in order to bring about a national revolutionary movement [words indistinct]. This is what we are going to address ourselves to in the future, and it is a precondition for the victory of the Chadian people over the imperialist and reactionaries and for the establishment of a true democratic and popular system that guarantees equality, justice, and development for all the children of this country.

Dear brothers and sisters, the formation of the new government coincides with the beginning of the new year, 1987. Hoping that this coincidence augurs well for the future of our struggle, I present my best wishes for happiness, good health, success, and prosperity to you all, beginning with our valiant ANL fighters in the bushes of the south and the center, and in the liberated territories of the north — and I pray Almighty God that the new year, 1987, will be one when the Chadian people will once and for all come out of war, famine, [words indistinct], humiliation, and (?misery). Down with French-U.S. imperialism! Down with the tribalistic dictators in Ndjameña! Immortal glory to our martyrs. The struggle continues. We will win.

GHANA

Rawlings Speaks on 31 Dec Revolution Anniversary
AB311110 Accra Domestic Service in English
 1800 GMT 31 Dec 86

[PNDC Chairman Rawlings' address to the nation in Accra to mark the 5th anniversary celebrations of the 31 December Revolution — live]

[Excerpts] My most beloved fellow countrymen and women, 5 years ago today you awoke to the dawn of a new era in the history of our dear Ghana. The government of the People's National Party had been overthrown and we gave you, in its place, a Provisional National Defense Council made up not of professional politicians and intellectuals but of very simple Ghanaians dedicated to the salvation of their nation. In spite of all the lessons of our history, corruption, selfishness, and intrigue had once again become a way of life for men in government. The pursuit of power for personal aggrandizement had taken hold of the ship of state so that while the people waited for efforts to solve the critical problems they faced, members of government were locked in childish conflict with one another. The hopes and dreams of our founding fathers as well as of the whole African Continent and of oppressed people the world over, particularly the black race, (had grown) in this very country Ghana, the first African nation south of the Sahara to achieve independence from colonial rule. And yet as the years passed and our nation's decay deepened, those gains receded and had to be [word indistinct].

I made it very clear to you on that eventful day that this was not one of those simple coups and that we were embarking upon a revolution which would change the character and face of our nation, and you know as well as I do there cannot be a revolution without tears. Change, any change, is difficult to initiate and execute.

Since 31 December, 1981, we have waged a determined struggle to rescue the national economy, to restore to the Ghanaian people a pride in their nation's potential and a commitment to the tasks of economic and political recovery, and to ensure for our country its proper place in international affairs. We have been determined also to establish, on a sound economic foundation, the reality of democracy, of popular participation in government to curb abuse of power and corruption, and establish a new morality, faith in national service. [passage omitted]

I would like to call upon the working people to recognize the responsibilities that confront us as a nation and to rededicate themselves afresh to the momentous task of national recovery, and in recognition of the government's own responsibilities, we have therefore decided with effect from 2 January 1987 to begin a transformation of the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare into a Ministry of Mobilization and Productivity, embodying and systemizing the national mobilization program. The social welfare role of the former Ministry of Labor will be added onto the responsibilities of the Ministry of Local Government. Our earlier decision to phase out a separate Ministry of Rural Development was based on a clear recognition that rural development will be

achieved if all ministries orient their activities towards the rural areas where the majority of our population lives.

It is in the context of rural development that our agriculture, industries, our education, health, finance, and any ministries should be tested. The new employment opportunities and productivity initiatives that we expect to generate, will mainly be in the rural areas. At the same time, government intends to provide this coming year a new and decisive momentum for the program of decentralization which we announced earlier but which has been largely stalled by lack of resources and organizational weaknesses.

We do, however, recognize the potential of the decentralization program for ensuring nationwide resource mobilization, and at the same time providing the base for genuine national democracy. This new momentum will lead to nationwide district level elections and the creation of district political authorities as steps forward in our cause for grassroots' participation in decision-making. The National Commission for Democracy is currently completing the task of demarcating districts for this exercise. Petty local disputes have stood in the way of this demarcation. We will not, however, allow these to stand in the way of decentralization any further. Those who are ready to move forward will be given the permission to do so and all the support and encouragement.

Countrymen and women, national political power must be nurtured very carefully if a steady tree of democracy is to grow. The lessons from our past political history are very clear but we made haste slowly and deliberately to bring into being institutions which will become the pillars upon which the people's power will be erected. Power to the people demands the recognition of the responsibility of each of us all over the country in both political and economic activities. That working man in that factory who gets a special allocation of what is produced and floods it on the market at a high price generates a cycle of price increases which will ultimately reduce the very value of the goods that he owns. There must be a new sense of responsibility in each working place, each village, and each district.

Decentralization will mean that throughout the country we all acknowledge and live up to our responsibility for nation-building and for our immediate surroundings, in particular for making our contribution to the national economic recovery effort. Decentralization should therefore thus advance national unity, and the central government will continue to coordinate nationwide efforts and ensure that national priorities are (?marked). These priorities must be set in accordance with real needs and in relation to available resources, and that is why we have also decided that the creation of an effective national planning system drawing together the initiatives from the grassroots within the appropriate [word indistinct] horizons will be one of our priorities in the coming year. We believe that such a system will contribute significantly to the attainment of our democratic aspirations so that we do not feed democracy with a hollow political content but one vetted in our economic realities.

The new planning system will also free the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning from its national planning responsibilities and strengthen that overtaxed ministry's capacity to ensure

crucial reforms in the financial sector and the continued mobilization of domestic as well as foreign financial resources. This means that the monetary and financial responsibilities will now be limited to the budget and supervision of the financial and revenue-collecting agencies.

Some of the decisions that were taken in the management of the economy over these last 5 years have been the source of considerable controversy. Many of the decisions have involved disagreement in the ranks of government. To a limited extent some threats also to the unity and stability of the government have also originated from a number of these decisions, (?and this is a fact). And while we believe that most of the decisions that were taken especially under the pressure of the emergency situation the nation experienced in 1982 and 1983 have been vindicated, we feel that an important element of the future must be the development of a national consensus on the basic issues of our economic recovery program. [passage omitted]

The political history of this country teaches us that unless the economic recovery program is seen by all Ghanaians as the foundation stone for the recovery of our national dignity, it could rather become a source of divisiveness and continuing [word indistinct] on the life of democracy. Accordingly, in line with government's determination to achieve a real democratization of national life, we will open up a free and firm debate in the direction of our economy. This must be a principal debate conducted in an orderly, informed, and constructive manner aimed at establishing important poles of agreement for a united people eager to look forward and not uprooting [words indistinct]. Government will seek a national mandate on these very important issues in the district level elections that will conclude the debate. The government will initiate the debate with the full presentation early next year of the medium-to long-term plans, and the acceptability of a package of measures will be settled in these district-level elections throughout the whole country. The detailed modalities and guidelines of this debate for national consensus on the direction of the economy and for the district council elections will be ready by 1 July 1987; that is, next year.

Ladies and gentlemen, we cannot afford again to have the past situation of the economy being a kind of political football from one regime to another with no stable direction that the energies of our people can be connected to. We must for once decide that the survival of the economy, the progress of our economic recovery efforts are a supreme goal which no change of government should disrupt. That way, an essential direction can be maintained and the sacrifices we make today can lead to a better future for ourselves and for our children that we all yearn for.

Fellow countrymen and women, let me take this opportunity once again to repeat what I said this morning to those here and abroad who have made it their vocation to seek to reverse what we have begun. Frankly it is a waste of time. This process is irreversible because of the indomitable will of the Ghanaian people. And for those [word indistinct] who claim to be concerned about our nation's destiny, we have upon the way offered the olive branch of peace and cooperation and an opportunity to end the fruitless but harmful activities and to join in the national recovery effort. In this spirit, I have also ordered a thorough review of all the cases of those who have been imprisoned or who are in detention

with the exception of those who have been convicted or are already facing specific charges of acts against the security of the state or against the economy. [passage omitted]

My beloved countrymen and women, the humiliation and prosecution which Ghanaians face in some countries is very distressing to us at home and we must put our house in order to create opportunities for everyone right here at home. We do, of course, expect other countries to treat all citizens with respect as we do to their citizens in our midst, and we will not look on unconcerned at such treatment of our compatriots abroad.

Countrymen and women, next year it will be 30 years since we became independent. Three decades might not be a long time in the lifespan of a nation but it is long enough for us to put the (?swerving) steps of our early years behind us and search new sights before us. The last 5 years have not been easy but I believe that we have saved ourselves from the disintegration and demoralization which was overrunning us. We have made our mistakes and we have learned by them. We have confronted problems that demand courage and determination and today even the greatest enemies of the PNDC will admit, if honesty and sincerity will allow them, that we have not lacked, all of us, the determination to take the crucial decisions a nation needs to take for its survival and long term development. Nor can our enemies also deny that we have been and will continue to be unsparing about the abuse of office, against corruption in high or low places. [passage omitted]

Let us look to the future with a renewed resolve to let Ghana rise again. Let us also respect and remain true to our resolutions in the coming year. Thank you very much, my beloved countrymen and women. God bless you all.

LIBERIA

Ruling Party Dominates 20 Dec By-Elections

AB031159 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English
1110 GMT 3 Jan 87

[Excerpt] The Election Commission, ECOM, yesterday announced the results of the municipal and legislative by-elections held throughout the country last December 20. The ECOM chairman, Isaac Randolph, read the results saying the National Democratic Party of Liberia, NDPL, candidate (James D. Cherry) won the vacant senatorial seat for Montserrado county by defeating his closest rival (Dr Isaac Wylles) with 12,777 to 3,615 votes.

NDPL candidate (Andoph Walker) also won the vacant seat in the House of Representatives of Montserrado County while the vacant senatorial seat for Margibi county was captured by NDPL'S (James A. Nebleh Sr. (David M. Toweh) of the NDPL won the vacant senatorial seat for Nimba county while Mr (B. A. Moluba Tokpa) and Mrs (Ellen Kokowa) won two vacant seats in the House of Representatives for Bong County on the NDPL ticket.

In the by-elections, the NDPL captured almost all vacant mayoral posts in the country. [passage omitted]

MALI

Agacher Strip To Become Common Development Zone
AB021031 Bamako Domestic Service in French
 0700 GMT 2 Jan 87

[Text] In his address to the nation on the occasion of the new year, General Moussa Traore, president of the Republic, stated that the fourth session of the National Council of the Democratic Union of Malian People [UDPM] clearly and honestly reviewed the state of the nation. It also recommended the drafting of a national orientation charter for the conduct of public affairs and amendments to the basic charter of the UDPM.

After speaking at great length on the difficult economic situation of Mali, the president pledged Mali's attachment to the cause of peace and African unity as demonstrated recently by the Malian people in their acceptance of the International Court of Justice verdict over the Mali-Burkina border dispute. Now, he said, the Agacher Strip, which used to be a bone of contention between the two countries, will be a common development zone.

NIGERIA

PRC Army Official, UK Minister Arrive 5 Jan
AB051003 Lagos Domestic Service in English
 0600 GMT 5 Jan 87

[Text] The deputy chief of general staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, General Xu Huizi, has arrived in Lagos to begin a 6-day official visit to the country. Gen Xu, who arrived yesterday, is expected to hold discussions with the chief of army staff, the minister of defense, the chief of navy staff as well as the chief of general staff before leaving for home on Saturday.

Also yesterday, the British minister of state at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Mrs Lynda Chalker, arrived in Lagos for a 5-day official visit. She was accompanied by 12 senior British businessmen. The British delegation is expected to hold talks on economic matters with officials of the Federal Government. The delegation will also visit Kano State.

U.S. Media Exaggerates Nigerians' Crimes
AB031036 Lagos International Service in English
 0830 GMT 3 Jan 87

[Mike Onochie commentary]

[Text] It was the *West Africa* magazine that made public the latest action of U.S. security officials against Nigerian citizens in the United States. According to the paper, crimes allegedly committed by some Nigerians residing in the United States are often exaggerated by the American media. As a result, the report stated, Nigerians leaving or visiting American now find themselves under constant suspicion and are subjected to thorough and

often indecent searches at the airports. This, of course, (?has inspired) individual accounts of tales of woes of Nigerian citizens returning from the United States. All these reports cannot be said to be baseless.

However, while it is not intended to question the rights of the U.S. authorities to combat crimes, it is necessary to caution that care should be taken to ensure that only the suspects are subjected to arrest. At least, law and convention demand that a suspect is innocent until proved guilty. Also, until proved guilty, a suspect is entitled to some form of civilized treatment. This aids the course of justice so the tendency will be for suspects to cooperate with security officials. Therefore brutalization of suspects, particularly those of Nigerian citizenship, as is being reported in the United States, if anything, might border on unnecessary blackmail and international witchhunting. This is more so when the alleged crimes are exaggerated or suspects arrested indiscriminately.

In 1984, for instance, an American television network for 3 consecutive days broadcast allegations that there was an organization of Nigerians in the United States whose purpose was to deceive and defraud American financial establishment such as department stores, banks, and credit card companies. The Nigerian mission in the United States lodged a serious protest because it was clear that the objective of the network was to dress Nigeria and her citizens in disgraceful garbs. Be that as it may, it should be necessary to point out that the commission of crimes is not the exclusive preserve of Nigerians or citizens of any other country. Criminality abounds in all climes and cultures. In fact, some countries are more notorious than others, judging from the rate of crimes committed by their citizens, who are allowed by law and convention to freely move about with guns and other ammunition.

As a society, Nigeria frowns at the commission of crimes, and that is why it does not permit her citizens to freely carry guns on their person. This also explains why Nigeria applies stringent penalties to crimes like armed robbery and drug pushing. In fact, when Nigeria introduced death by firing squad for armed robbery, some foreign countries, especially those which describe themselves as the free and civilized world criticized the measure as excessive and barbaric. They refused to appreciate that death by firing squad was an appropriate punishment and good deterrent to robbery by violence.

Nigeria therefore decries the current general lies and sweeping suspicion and arrests of her nationals in the United States. Such action will only serve as a disservice to relations between Lagos and Washington. One can only hope that it does not enjoy the approval of the White House.

Equatorial Guinea-RSA Venture Causes 'Concern'
AB031810 Lagos Domestic Service in English
 1500 GMT 3 Jan 87

[Text] The Federal Government has expressed concern about the large agricultural investment of apartheid South Africa in neighboring Equatorial Guinea. It has therefore communicated its displeasure over the issue to the authorities in that country.

The minister of external affairs, Prof Bolaji Akinyemi, said in Lagos yesterday that the racist clique in South Africa could use its plantation in Equatorial Guinea as a base for espionage activities on Nigeria.

Professor Akinyemi, however, remarked that the government of Equatorial Guinea understood Nigeria's point of view on the matter.

SENEGAL

Diouf Address Stresses Development, Unity
AB030612 Dakar PANA in French 0900 GMT
1 Jan 87

[Text] Dakar, 1 Jan (PANA) — On Wednesday evening, President Diouf called on his people to respect the general principles that must guide the action of the nation and enable her to be further aware of the "triple requirements on which her progress, survival, and strength depend in this world of turmoil." These requirements are development, national unity, and democracy, Diouf said in his address to the nation on the occasion of yearend festivities. Speaking of development, "without which any hope of a life of prosperity, peace, justice, and democracy is vain," the Senegalese president recalled the efforts made to set up a solid and viable economy. In that regard, he mentioned the new agricultural policy, which he said now focuses on farmers and which he explained represents nothing other than the reasonable, methodic, and progressive rehabilitation of our agriculture, so it can play its real role, giving impetus to the overall domestic

economy". [no beginning quotation mark as received] As for the new industrial policy, its "principle" lies in the basic option of the disengagement and retreat of the state and not the suspension of its intervention, he stressed. The new Senegalese educational system also caught the attention of the Senegalese president, who hopes that it provides a "development-oriented education," adjusted to the economy's new requirements. In the field of health, President Diouf reiterated in his address the exhortation he made to his countrymen to respond to the action and all the plans worked out within the framework of the "vigorous policy of health for all by the year 2000."

Discussing the second requirement, national unity, the Senegalese president called on his compatriots to participate in a "national reawakening" which he said is beginning to take shape. He defined this effort notably as "a positive and keen attitude in face of the dangers encircling us from all parts", as a "voluntary renunciation of inactivity and opposition to progress," and also as "a new strength to be deployed to the exclusive service of the Senegalese nation and people."

President Diouf recalled the attachment of the Senegalese people to secularity, one of the "fundamental attainments" of democracy in Senegal. "The Senegalese has the right to belong to all the moral, cultural, and spiritual communities which enable him to attain the development of his person," he continued. President Abdou Diouf concluded his message by expressing the wish that 1987 would be for the Senegalese people, the "the year of work well accomplished, national unity, solidarity, concord, and fraternity."

ANGOLA

Dos Santos Greets Castro, Cuba on Anniversary

*MB031521 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
1200 GMT 3 Jan 87*

[Message of congratulations from Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola, to Cuban President Fidel Castro on the occasion of 28th anniversary of the Cuban revolution — date not given]

[Text] Esteemed comrade, on the occasion of the 28th anniversary of the triumph of Cuba's revolution, I have the honor of warmly greeting you, comrade, the Cuban people, the Central Committee of the Communist Party, and the Government of the Republic of Cuba on behalf of the Angolan people and the MPLA-Labor Party.

On this memorable day we remember the heroism and bravery of the revolutionary Cuban fighters, who demonstrated by their own example the inevitable victory of oppressed people in South America, who fight against tyranny, imperialist domination, and injustice, thus making a valuable contribution to the struggle of peoples fighting for liberty, progress, and justice.

We also know of the great successes attained by your people in the 28 years since the revolution in the political, social, and economic fields, which consolidated and made irreversible the conquests achieved by the victory of 1 January, despite the adverse conditions which developed and the constant acts of provocation and aggression carried out by imperialism. The Cuban revolution thus became a source of inspiration and example for peoples fighting against exploitation, oppression, and underdevelopment.

We express our appreciation for the important contributions, which the Cuban internationalists have made to our country in the military, economic, and social fields; for the defense of our territorial sovereignty; and for the national reconstruction of the People's Republic of Angola. We reiterate our unwavering solidarity with the brotherly people of Cuba, its Communist Party, and government in the common struggle against imperialism in order to establish world peace, friendship, and understanding among nations. We also reiterate our desire to further strengthen the friendship, solidarity, and cooperation [words indistinct] which unite our peoples, parties and governments, in the consolidation of world socialism, and in the triumph of the cause of freedom and independence of all peoples.

Please accept, esteemed Comrade Fidel Castro, my best wishes for good health and personal well-being for you and for the prosperity and progress for the brotherly people of Cuba.

[Signed] Highest considerations, Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola.

Foreign Minister Congratulates Cuba's Malmierca

*MB030831 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
0500 GMT 3 Jan 87*

[Text] On the occasion of the 20th anniversary [as heard] of the triumph of the Cuban revolution marked on 1 January, Angolan External Relations Minister Afonso van Dunem Mbinda has sent a message of congratulations to his Cuban counterpart, Isidoro Malmierca. In the message, the Angolan external relations minister expresses his deep conviction that the fraternal cooperative relations between the two peoples, parties, and governments will continue to strengthen within the framework of the policy of nonalignment and in the interest of world peace. The Angolan official also notes in his message the achievements of the Cuban people, party, and government in the economic, political, social, and cultural fields.

Central Committee Declaration Reviews 1986

*MB021330 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
1200 GMT 1 Jan 87*

[Declaration from the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee read by Political Bureau Member Francisco Magalhaes Paiva Nvunda in Luanda on 31 December]

[Text] Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, dear comrades: We only have a few hours to go before the end of 1986, a year which was marked by important national and international events. During this year and in accordance with the guidelines set by our party's second congress held 1 year ago, the party's organisation was strengthened to make it stronger, united, and organized, (?which will) enable us to instill the required driving force in the struggle toward the building of socialism. In response to the historical decisions of our second congress, party members engaged themselves in voluntary work to make our party more vigorous and more capable in playing its vanguard role in our society. Our party noted with satisfaction the enthusiasm shown by its members in the fulfillment of tasks of its organizations and in the improvement of working methods, but nevertheless we recognize that we have an arduous path ahead.

Comrade president, in the year now ending concrete measures were outlined to deal with the difficult economic situation of the country caused by the fall in prices of our main foreign exchange earnings and to the increasing aggression from international imperialism against the People's Republic of Angola. These measures resulted basically from the need to minimize the difficult economic situation that we face and from the war that is imposed on us and which requires considerable human and financial resources. At this time of reflection we consider that this austerity policy is not but the most efficient way to safeguard the supreme interests of the working classes at a moment when the party has defined as a priority task the defense of the people's revolution. The experience gained should guide us in the future as to how to (?handle) organizational mechanisms in an economy that supports the war and to make the war serve the defense of the economy.

Comrade president, in this modest message we want to stress the efforts of the brave combatants of the armed forces, security, and

internal order forces who have on several occasions nipped in the bud the macabre plans of imperialism and its agents against our revolutionary process. We all remember the brilliant description you, comrade president, made of the despair and failure of the objectives that the puppet bands tried to achieve not only in 1986 but also in past years. Our armed forces have successfully kept the enemy on the defensive with a view to its total annihilation, which was only delayed by the intervention of the racist South African army at critical moments on behalf of the puppets. Our repeated victories forced the enemy to turn to a pseudo-policy of national reconciliation, the objectives of which are to try to achieve at an international level what it has not, and will never be able to achieve (?among) our people, and to search for new forms of linkage [preceding word in English] which only mislead the less informed.

Allow me, comrade president, to congratulate everyone on the reelection of members of the organs of people's power, namely the People's Assembly and the provincial people's assemblies, an event of special importance at the state level since it constitutes another step in strengthening the democratic and popular character of the Angolan revolution.

Six years after the creation of the People's Assembly and the provincial people's assembly it is remarkable that these organs of state power constitute one of the most important achievements since our independence toward the attainment of a popular democracy and the creation of a material and spiritual basis for the construction of socialism. Another important achievement, which resulted from guidelines set by our party's Central Committee, was the creation of the rank of general within the armed forces. As our comrade president clearly defined, and I quote, its meaning surpasses the significance of a national event to be placed in the global context of historic events which happen in the world and particular in southern Africa, unquote.

Comrade president, our party's Central Committee has noted with satisfaction in 1986 the taking of firmer standpoints by the international community in relation to the apartheid regime, namely through the demand for the imposition of mandatory economic sanctions aimed at elimination of that odious regime, which is the shame of this century, a destabilizing factor in southern Africa. We are certain that in 1987 our external policy will unite its efforts with other peace-loving countries to continue actions aimed at isolating the Pretoria racist regime in the international arena and at abolishing the apartheid system. We are thus expressing the wish of the entire international community to see a democratic regime installed in South Africa and independence for Namibia.

Comrade president, the year that ends saw a tragic event still fresh in our memories, and which plunged into mourning not only the brother people of Mozambique but also all of mankind — the death of the president of the People's Republic of Mozambique and chairman of Frelimo Party, Samora Moises Machel, a tireless fighter against apartheid. On this occasion let us once again pay our heartfelt homage to the memory of President Samora Machel whose contribution toward peace and freedom for the oppressed peoples will never be forgotten.

Comrade president, 1987 will be a year of particular meaning in the history of our party. We will celebrate this year the 10th anniversary of the constitution of MPLA as a Labor Party, which until now has audaciously and coherently directed the destiny of our people, and has neutralized all overt or covert attempts by our internal and external enemies against the Angolan revolution. The MPLA-Labor Party has become, since its creation, the most precious political instrument of the Angolan workers, the supreme form of their organization and a catalyst for national unity and socioeconomic development. The force and prestige of our party are inseparable from the unselfish dedication to the fatherland of our esteemed leader Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and his clear-sighted leadership. Thus, comrade president, accept our sincere acknowledgement.

At this moment there are still immense tasks ahead in implementing the project for radical change of the society inherited from colonialism to the benefit of the working masses. We reiterate our unwavering support for the way you, comrade president, have defended either internally or externally the most legitimate interests of our people and revolution. We, under your leadership, comrade president, will remain loyal to the teachings of the late President Agostinho Neto and in 1987 we will redouble efforts to materialize with determination and unselfishness the resolutions set by the second congress of our party for the well-being of the working masses of our country. Please accept, comrade president, our wishes for health, prosperity, and permanent readiness in exercising your noble functions. The struggle continues! Victory is certain!

Jonas Savimbi Delivers Year-End Message

MB021241 (Clandestine) Voice of the Resistance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Angola 0330 GMT 2 Jan 87

[Year-end message by Jonas Savimbi, UNITA president and FALA commander in chief; date, place not given — recorded]

[Excerpts] Angolan compatriots, religious institutions, our fatherland's youth, UNITA sympathizers and militants, officers and soldiers of our revolution's armed forces, workers, peasants, and intellectuals: In this year-end message of 1986, I should like to start with this quotation by Napoleon, a great French military man, who said, quote: Every inevitable war is just, unquote. Since the founding of UNITA, 20 years of intense and uninterrupted activity at the service of the Angolan fatherland have passed. [passage omitted]

Our triumphant visit to the United States culminated with the granting of material and diplomatic assistance to UNITA despite the fact that Ismael Martins [Angolan foreign trade minister] spent so much money to undermine our mission. He ended up as a laughing stock in the United States and in the eyes of true Angolans as is usually the case with people entrusted with lost causes. Following the clear stand of the United States, African countries, Western countries, and countries from the Arab world resumed their material assistance to UNITA. Our recent visit to France took the MPLA-Labor Party by surprise, because it was a complete success, despite sabotage attempts by Pedro Van-Dunem Loy [Angolan energy minister], Venancio de Moura

[Angolan external relations deputy minister], and the restless Alexandre Rodrigues Kito [Angolan interior minister].

Only UNITA, France, and its African friends know what took place in France. UNITA is surely gaining international recognition in the face of a paralyzed Luanda government, which is totally rudderless.

At the internal level, FALA forces have been able to frustrate FAPLA offensives directly led by Soviets and Cubans on the frontline. What does (Almor dos Santos Espada), political commissar of the (762d) brigade stationed in Balombo, Benguela, who was captured by FALA forces in October 1986, say? He says that apart from the so-called military advisers who are nothing but brigade commanders, 64 Cubans are acting as ordinary infantry soldiers. There are attempts to put UNITA on the defensive, but FAPLA forces are being worn out along the borders of UNITA's free territory in their rainy season offensive, which is having very little success. [Passage omitted]

UNITA held its sixth congress in August of this year. Following an in-depth examination of the situation, this congress adopted a policy of reconciliation and peace and called for the formation of a government of Angolan national unity. We think that our platform is a serious document which deserves deep reflection and (?understanding) from all Angolans. We want the establishment of direct contact between UNITA and the MPLA-Labor Party for an immediate cease-fire, with belligerent forces holding their former positions. There have already been talks and talks are now going on between certain members of the MPLA and UNITA members. It may well be that these elements have not been sent by the MPLA-Labor Party or the Luanda Government, but the truth is that President Eduardo dos Santos is continually informed of these contacts. We are also aware that in the internal power struggle for supremacy within the MPLA, there are elements who are made whipping boys. We cannot understand how Mendes de Carvalho, who has always stood for talks with UNITA to find a negotiated solution to the Angolan conflict, should be the one forced by the Luanda government to send a protest to the French Government with regard to our visit there. Either Mendes de Carvalho is a prisoner in Pankow, East Germany, or he lacks the will to express himself about Angola, because he cannot simultaneously recommend negotiations with UNITA and condemn our movement's diplomatic advances.

We also advocate negotiations on the formation of a government of national unity, including not only members of the MPLA-Labor Party and UNITA, but also other political currents of thought in order to create in Angola a true multi-party regime. Although UNITA and MPLA forces are confronting each other, UNITA believes that there are other democratic schools of thought in the country which should not only be listened to, but also must participate in the broad debates in order for us to find solutions capable of bringing peace and stability to Angola, essential conditions for a true national reconciliation. We advocate that such a government should work toward the strengthening of peace throughout the national territory once all foreign troops are withdrawn from the country. [passage omitted]

For UNITA, 1987 will be the year of the strengthening of the armed forces in order to attain peace. In unequivocal terms this

means that UNITA enters 1987 with the firm intention of stepping up armed actions throughout the country in order to force those stubborn MPLA elements to negotiate the end of the civil war. [passage omitted]

As far as we are concerned, the Benguela railroad will never be rehabilitated unless total peace is attained throughout the country. This is because we do not want the Benguela railroad to serve the interests of Cubans and Russians in their expansionist designs, their logistic requirements, and their attempts to show the world that UNITA has failed. There are no forces from the Frontline States capable of entering Angola to rehabilitate the Benguela railroad. [passage omitted]

The white South African regime is to remain in our region for a long time to come. The MPLA has been making a wrong assessment of its problems because it wants to believe that the South African regime will vanish in January or February, that SWAPO will form a government in June 1987, and that the ANC will take over control of South Africa in December 1987. Either these erroneous assessments are the result of an alarming incompetence on the part of MPLA leaders or are due to an enormous pressure exerted by their Russian and Cuban masters.

The white South African regime has the might to resist (?the threats) from the so-called Frontline States. While it condemns in no uncertain terms the apartheid system, UNITA believes, however, that moderate African countries lack the courage to (?embark) on a more vigorous policy aimed at increasing pressure on the present South African government in order for it to speed up reforms and give black South Africans the same rights to have a political role to play in their own country.

Still on South Africa, UNITA condemns economic sanctions against that country not because UNITA would, perhaps, be the first to be affected. All of us will be affected: Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Malawi, Lesotho, Swaziland, and Botswana. [passage omitted]

UNITA militants, soldiers and officers, detainees languishing in jails of our class enemy: In 1986 we attained great victories. Let us increase pressure on the enemy wherever he may be. Let us redouble blows and individual actions. Let us combine our sabotage and propaganda actions with the resolute action of our legendary FALA forces. Let us instill in our midst the spirit of hardship as demanded by the present situation in order to attain our goals even faster. Let us increase discipline while working out plans and implementing them. Let us protect at all times the civilian population even when they live under the MPLA-Labor Party.

The MPLA-Labor Party has serious problems. They are the slaves of their Russian grandparents, servants of their Cuban cousins who (?oppress them). We could even honestly ask: if the MPLA-Labor Party complains that part of the national territory is occupied by South African soldiers why do we have 45,000 Cubans in Angola? Why can the 45,000 Cubans not drive the South Africans out of the occupied territory? After all, what are the 45,000 Cubans doing if they are paid in dollars earned from the sale of oil, and then say that they cannot fight? So, they are in Angola to protect the Eduardo dos Santos government, to

massacre civilians, to poison food and water, and to undermine national interests.

Eduardo dos Santos is a Russian client. The Russians have given him a wife who also keeps an eye on him. Eduardo dos Santos is not only a coward and a trickster, but also a liar and incompetent. For example, he said that his ambassador, Pacavira [accredited to Havana], has stated that FAPLA had captured three missiles from UNITA. So, who is the chief: Pacavira or Eduardo dos Santos? Eduardo dos Santos claims to be FAPLA's commander in chief, but then why does he need to quote Pacavira? Why does he not produce the missiles that he captured to U.S. journalists? We no longer know whether the chief is Pacavira, who from Cuba says that they have captured missiles, or Eduardo dos Santos, who claims to be the commander in chief but cannot produce concrete evidence, and needs to quote his ambassador.

Do we want Angola to be ruled by incompetent people? Angola deserves a government capable of asserting the country's sovereignty and independence, of rallying all Angolans under a broader political umbrella, and of outlining of liberal economic policy, by releasing the initiative of the Angolans from state tutelage. A government capable of outlining a policy of peace and national reconciliation, of cooperating with all countries of the world, by putting in the first place the defence of the interests of Angola and southern Africa. [sentence as heard] Only UNITA can positively answer to this anxiety which has been going on for 10 years, as we did in Mombassa, in Alvor, and in [name indistinct].

To all fellow Angolans, whatever their political color, all UNITA supporters, militants, soldiers and officers, all those languishing in MPLA jails, and all those abroad who still hope of returning to the fatherland, I send you best wishes for 1987. May God protect our country and help us to attain the peace (?that we long for).

UNITA Claims Killing 23 Soldiers 31 Dec

AU031357 Paris AFP in English 0229 GMT 3 Jan 87

[Text] Lisbon, Jan 3 (AFP) — South African-backed anti-government rebels in Angola claimed here Friday they killed 23 government soldiers in an ambush of a military column on New Year's Eve in the southern province of Kuando-Kubango.

They said in a communique that four of their own men had been killed in the fighting, between the villages of Luassingua and Kuatiri.

LESOTHO

Attorney General, PRC Ambassador Appointed

MB311001 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0900 GMT 31 Dec 86

[Text] A former lecturer in Law at the National University of Lesotho, Mr (Kilibone Mahope), has been appointed attorney general of Lesotho. He succeeds Mr (Molefe Ntloko) who resigned two months ago. Meanwhile, the principal secretary in

the Department of Works, Mr (Manyane Fufolo), has been appointed Lesotho's ambassador to communist China. He replaced Mr Chaka Ntsane who was recalled from Peking in September.

MOZAMBIQUE

Chissano Greet's Cuba's Castro Upon Election

MB021358 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 2 Jan 87

[Text] Joaquim Chissano, chairman of the Frelimo Party and president of the People's Republic of Mozambique, has sent a message of congratulations to Fidel Castro on his reelection as president of the Council of State in the Republic of Cuba. In the message, President Chissano reiterates the friendship, militant solidarity, and bilateral cooperation between the two peoples, parties, and states. Speaking on behalf of the Mozambican people, party, and government of the People's Republic of Mozambique, President Chissano adds, quote: "We are sure that under your wise leadership and untiring dedication shown throughout these years in the construction of socialism in the Cuban fatherland, you will be able to create conditions with the unselfish support of the fraternal Cuban people in order to overcome the economic crisis which the country is experiencing, unquote."

The Mozambican president sent another message to his Cuban counterpart, Fidel Castro, on the occasion of 28th anniversary of the triumph of the Cuban revolution. In his message, Joaquim Chissano hails with admiration the resolve of the Cuban people, as well as the decisions made by the Communist Party of Cuba's Third Congress.

Chissano on Eastern Ties, U.S. Envoy's Message

AU031439 Rome ANSA in English 1233 GMT 3 Jan 87

[Text](ANSA) Milan, January 3 — President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique displayed a willingness to discuss closer relations between his government and the West in an interview given to an Italian daily in which he also defended Maputo's ties with the Eastern countries.

The 47-year-old president, picked by the Central Committee of the ruling Frelimo Party to succeed President Samora Machel, who died October 19 in a plane crash in South African territory, told *Corriere Della Sera* of Milan: "We know with certainty that South African is preparing military aggression against Mozambique." He said he expects the Pretoria government to make a move some time before the end of the month and referred to countermeasures ready as a response to this aggression.

Charges levelled against South Africa by the Maputo government had been limited in the past to allegations of assistance for Mozambique's Renamo rebels, described as "bandits" in official circles.

Speaking about future dialogue with the West, Chissano said: "We want to be very clear. If Rome tells me tomorrow

they are prepared to send me uniforms or anything else, I would go to the airport myself to take delivery of the goods. We have no preclusions of this type. Great Britain has offered us aid and now our officers are being trained in Mozambique by British instructors. Some of our officers are studying in military academies in Great Britain."

Responding to the interviewer's statement that the West views Mozambique as maintaining close ties with the Eastern European countries, the president said: "Our relations with the countries of the East are based on the exact same principles as those with the West, respect for our sovereignty and independence."

After affirming that Mozambique will not allow any nation to dictate conditions for Maputo's relations with another nation, he said: "It will be necessary for the world to begin treating us as responsible adults and not as children. The U.S. and the Soviet Union have economic relations....I do not see why we should not have relations with both blocs in that we are also a non-aligned state."

In this connection, Chissano said: "It was not our choice" to accept military assistance only from the Eastern countries "but it is a reality. We always said we were prepared to accept military aid but the Western countries had difficulties. We have had contacts with Italy, France, Portugal, Spain and the United States."

Asked about the number of foreign advisers in his country, the president responded: "I do not know. I honestly cannot say whether there are more advisers from the East or from the West in Mozambique."

The head of state, fluent in French and English, went on to say that "there is only one thing to do for those countries which feel they are not well represented in Mozambique: create the premise for increasing their presence here....Our problem is not one of making a choice in the field on the basis of ideology."

Speaking about the recent visit to Maputo conducted by an envoy of U.S. President Ronald Reagan, Chissano said he "came to reiterate that the U.S. Government will continue to support the government of the People's Republic of Maputo. He said the U.S. does not support terrorists and will continue to seek out a way to send aid to Mozambique."

"He also informed us that Washington is reviewing its policy towards South Africa in order to improve relations with the frontline countries," the independent black states bordering on South Africa, the president concluded.

Explosion Damages Maputo Port Facilities *MB031850 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese* 1730 GMT 3 Jan 87

[Text] An explosion followed by a fire occurred in the early hours of yesterday at the minerals unloading bay of Maputo's port. Damage is estimated at about 1,500 contos [one conto equals 1,000 meticals]. The explosion damaged the system for unloading

minerals from ships. According to Elidio Dinis, director of Maputo Port, there was major damage to the electrical system and minor damage to the mechanical system.

The explosion occurred at 0100, and the fire burned until 0700 on the same morning. The fire was extinguished by the public salvation corps.

The Maputo Port Authority has formed a task force, which is already operating; and it is hoped that the damaged system will be repaired within 15 days.

Armed Forces Kill 10 'Bandits' in Macanzane *MB040858 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese* 0600 GMT 4 Jan 87

[Text] A unit of the Mozambique armed forces killed 10 armed bandits 23-27 December in the Macanzane region, Manhica district, Maputo Province. According to AIM there is a lack of weapons, ammunition, and men among the bandits. The bandits do not build camps anymore because the Mozambican armed forces are carrying out a vast pursuit campaign against those criminals.

5 'Bandits' Killed 29 Dec *MB011143 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese* 0800 GMT 1 Jan 87

[Text] FPLM units in Maputo Province killed five armed bandits in Magude District and captured weapons in Moamba District on 29 December. A source from the Maputo provincial military command, which disclosed this information, said the five armed bandits were killed in (Muzambalala) following the storming of an armed bandit camp where 13 AKM weapons were captured. In the operation, our forces also recovered 24 tables, 2 bicycles, and freed an 8-year-old child. The bandits, who fled in disarray, left behind 41 boxes of ammunition, 70 rockets, and a quantity of other war materiel such as grenades and mines. Mopping up and search-and-destroy operations continue in various areas of Maputo Province.

Arms Seized in Vundica *MB040530 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese* 1730 GMT 3 Jan 87

[Text] A group of armed bandits was driven away on Monday from the Vundica region in Maputo Province by the Mozambican armed forces. The bandit group was taken by surprise when it was digging up weapons in three arms caches in order to transfer them to another place. In the operation, our forces captured 41 boxes of ammunition for AKM light weapons, 70 rockets, 5 mortar shells, and automatic weapons of various calibers. Sources in the military command told AIM that other war materiel was found by our forces in Vundica after the bandits fled in disarray. Vundica is a locality in Moamba district, about 50 km from Maputo.

MNR Claims Semacueva Captured, 86 Killed*AU041425 Paris AFP in English 0300 GMT 4 Jan 87*

[Text] Lisbon, Jan 4 (AFP) — A spokesman for Mozambique's South African-backed anti-government rebels claimed here Saturday that the rebels had killed 86 government soldiers when they captured the central Mozambican town of Semacueva recently.

The soldiers included 57 Mozambicans, 21 Zimbabweans, five Tanzanians and three Cubans.

Ten armoured cars and a large quantity of arms and ammunition were seized in the town, some 50 kms (30 miles) from the port of Beira, the country's second city, the spokesman said.

Renamo Seizes 3 Italian Missionaries Dec 13*AU031519 Rome ANSA in English 1017 GMT 3 Jan 87*

[Text](ANSA) Bologna, January 3 — Three Italian missionaries have been kidnapped in Mozambique by anti-government guerrillas.

The three were seized at Mualama in northern Mozambique on December 13 but word of their capture was released only now by their order after a meeting here of the council of the Congregation of Priests of the Sacred Heart (Dehonians).

Guerrillas from the Renamo movement sacked the mission and seized Father Onorino Venturini, 63, Father Ezio Toller, 50, and Father Vittorino Biasioli, 53.

Father Venturini has been in Mozambique since 1950 while the other two arrived in 1962. They were the last whites to remain in the area.

Two years ago the nuns left the mission after guerrillas broke off all communication links with the territory.

The congregation said that four other Dehonians are still in areas controlled by Renamo. They are Father Giovanni Bonalumi, Father Tarcisio de Giovanni, Father Giuseppe Zanetti, and Father Giuseppe Ruffini, all Italians.

Tete Governor Says Food Situation May Worsen*MB030829 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0400 GMT 3 Jan 87*

[Text] Tete Province Governor Eduardo Arao said last week that irregular rainfall and the possibility of different kinds of disasters could worsen the food situation in that region of the country. Eduardo Arao told AIM that a total of 458,000 people were currently affected by famine in Tete Province. The Tete governor also said that whereas there has been sufficient rainfall in quantitative terms, it has been irregular and comes once the plantations have dried up.

SOUTH AFRICA**P.W. Botha Reaffirms Stand on Group Areas***MB031121 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 3 Jan 86*

[Text] The state president, Mr P.W. Botha, says the principle of separate residential areas will not be surrendered. President Botha said on inquiry that government policy was to retain exclusive suburbs for the different population groups. He said that he had expanded on this standpoint at the federal congress of the NP last year. Our political staff reports that, in an apparent repudiation of the leader of the LP [Labor Party] and chairman of the ministers' council of the House of Representatives, Rev Allan Hendrickse, Mr Botha denied that he had ever made the matter a bone of contention in the cabinet. In a public speech yesterday, Rev Hendrickse demanded the scrapping of the Group Areas Act.

President Botha said that Rev Mr Hendrickse had himself called for the application of the principle of exclusive residential areas on a number of occasions. Referring to Mr Hendrickse's condemnation of the new emergency regulations affecting the media, he said it was strange that Mr Hendrickse had not protested to the cabinet or to him about them. President Botha emphasized that the present constitutional dispensation was built on group identity, and no system that deviated from it was acceptable to him.

Hendrickse Statement on Housing*MB031208 Johannesburg International Service in English 1100 GMT 3 Jan 87*

[Text] The leader of the South African Labor Party [LP] and chairman of the Ministers Council in the colored, mixed-race, House of Representatives, Rev Allan Hendrickse, has called on the state president, Mr P.W. Botha, to carry out immediate reform in the country. Addressing more than 3,000 people in the coastal city of Port Elizabeth, including black South African leaders and members of the international diplomatic corps, Mr Hendrickse said the LP's theme this year was: Now is the time.

Mr Hendrickse said the time had arrived for Mr Botha to take more risks with reform. The colored leader said unless more meaningful reform was brought about, the LP would have to review its participation in the South African tricameral parliament. Referring to the new media control measures introduced by the South African Government, Mr Hendrickse said he could only condemn them. However, he also called on the South African media to exercise greater responsibility in the way it reported matters.

Mr Hendrickse reiterated his call for the scrapping of the Group Areas Act, saying it was all South African's right to decide where they wanted to live, with whom they wanted to associate, and where they should give their children schooling. The LP party leader, who is also a cabinet minister in the South African government, called on the state president to release the jailed ANC leader, Nelson Mandela, and other political prisoners, and also to unban the ANC.

Botha's Allegations Denied

*MB031506 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1447 GMT
3 Jan 87*

[Text] Port Elizabeth Jan 3 SAPA — The Rev Allan Hendrickse, leader of the Labour Party, has described a statement by the state president, Mr P.W. Botha, that he was part of the cabinet decision to implement the new press curbs as "absolutely false." Reacting to a statement issued by Mr Botha this morning, Mr Hendrickse said that if the curbs were agreed to by the cabinet then this was not done in his presence. "I may be part of the cabinet, but I am not part of the National Party," he told a cheering 21st annual congress.

Mr Hendrickse added that he felt it right that Mr Botha should await a full text of what he had said rather than react to reports.

In his statement as reported by the SABC at lunchtime, Mr Botha, in response to Mr Hendrickse's criticism of the emergency regulations as they effected the media, in his opening address said he found it strange that he has not protested to cabinet when he heard about them.

Elaborating on the earlier statement, a spokesman for Mr Hendrickse said there had been no cabinet meeting after the promulgation of the regulations and he had not been present at the cabinet meeting when the press curbs were approved. He said Mr Hendrickse had not aired his views at a cabinet meeting later because there had not been one.

The two men are also at odds over Mr Hendrickse's threat to review participation if the Group Areas Act was not scrapped. In his reply, Mr Botha said the principle of separate residential areas would not be surrendered. The present policy, he spelled out, was to retain exclusive suburbs for the various population groups and he had expanded on this at the federal congress of the National Party last year. Mr Botha denied that the matter had ever been made a bone of contention in the cabinet. Attacking Mr Hendrickse's call for the scrapping of the act, he said the labour party leader had himself called for application of principle of exclusive residential areas on a number of occasions.

Responding to the attack, Mr Hendrickse asked why was it that there was always land available for whites but never enough for people of other colours.

He said the Labour Party had been forced to ask for the proclamation of certain group areas in the Transvaal and in Uitenhage for example "through force of circumstances and not of choice." He said he wished to "condemn the aspersion that I have asked for the implementation of the Group Areas Act.

"It is not because we want to but because we have to," he said to loud applause. Such needs, he added, would not arise if it were not for the provisions of the Group Areas Act, an act which was totally unacceptable. Mr Hendrickse said he wished to repeat that laws were not needed to keep people of like cultural or religious thinking together. "Those who wished to live together did so, as the urban suburbs showed. No laws are needed to protect someone's culture. I say unequivocally that if a culture

has to be protected by legislation, then that culture is of no value."

Limpet Mine Suspected in Johannesburg Blast

*MB040534 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2203 GMT
4 Jan 87*

[Text] Johannesburg Jan 4 SAPA — A black woman injured in a bomb blast at the Sanlam Centre in Johannesburg yesterday will be sent to an eye clinic for treatment. A Hillbrow Hospital spokesman said today Mrs Grace Luwina Loni sustained multiple lacerations on her head from flying glass.

Two other black women, Mrs Mary Mapengo and Mrs Miriam Khalo, were treated for shock and temporary deafness and discharged.

Mrs Loni's condition was today reported to be satisfactory.

A spokesman of the Bureau for Information said today a suspected limpet mine exploded at about 2:30pm yesterday after it had been placed in a flower box on the outside of Sanlam Centre in Delfers Street.

A Johannesburg Ambulance Department spokesman said police and traffic officials cordoned off the area within minutes of the explosion. Ambulancemen stabilised the three black women and took them to the Hillbrow Hospital.

The spokesman said that not much damage had been caused to the Sanlam Centre building, but several windows had been smashed and blown out from shops and flats across the street.

PFP Confident of 'Considerable Gains' in Election

*MB031129 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1121 GMT
3 Jan 87*

[Text] Cape Town, Jan 3, SAPA — The Progressive Federal Party was confident it would make "considerable" gains in the coming election and the National Party was in for a shock, the chairman of the PFP's federal executive, Mr Ken Andrew, MP, said yesterday.

"There is no doubt in my mind that the support for the National Party is dwindling all the time and that it is only SATV propaganda that has prevented this erosion from taking on even greater proportions in the immediate past," he said.

"More and more South Africans have come to realise that the National Party has landed South Africa in a political and economic mess, and that it has no plans for the present and no vision for the future.

"The state president's new year message was strong on what and who he didn't like but offered no initiatives or vision for the country," he said.

The PFP would use every opportunity in the election campaign to present its alternative of a non-racial, geographically based federation with a bill of rights.

NP Said in Danger of Losing Seats to PFP, HNP
MB031144 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1141 GMT
 3 Jan 87

[Text] Cape Town, Jan 3, SAPA — The white election later this year, probably on Wednesday, April 29, could be the bitterest in South Africa's history — and the ruling National Party is in danger of losing seats to both the right wing and the Progressive Federal Party.

"I believe that the National Party is in for a rude awakening and will emerge the big loser in the forthcoming election," the chairman of the PFP's federal executive, Mr Ken Andrew, MP, said yesterday.

Mr Andrew also said the regular surveys of white voters by *Rapport* newspaper had shown that the National Party's 61.5 per cent support in March 1981 before the last general election had dropped to 49.6 per cent in November last year.

The PFP, the Conservative Party and the Herstigte Nasionale [Reformed National] Party have all confidently welcomed the announcement in the state president's new year's message that white voters would go to the polls later this year.

Mr P.W. Botha said he intended to name a date for the election when he opened parliament on January 30, but political observers believe he has little to gain from a protracted election campaign and that he is likely to opt for April 29, when all the school holidays are over.

The PFP leader, Mr Colin Eglin, who indicated his party was ready and looking forward to tackling the government, said there was not the slightest chance that the PFP would lose its position as the official opposition.

The New Republic Party [NRP] had moved closer to the PFP, particularly during the KwaZulu/Natal indaba negotiations, and between them the two parties should be able to win more than 40 seats, he said.

The leader of the Conservative Party, Dr Andries Treurnicht, said the CP had long demanded that the voters be given the opportunity to express their opinion on the "so-called" reforms over the last few years.

The leader of the HNP, Mr Jaap Marais, said the election was "a great opportunity" for the right wing.

In spite of the confidence expressed in opposition circles, Mr Botha is a shrewd and tough election strategist and he clearly would not have called a poll unless he believed it would be to the advantage of the National Party.

In particular, Mr Botha wants to deliver a serious blow to the Conservative Party, which has never before fought a general

election. Only two CP MP's, Dr Treurnicht (Waterberg) and Mr Tom Langley (Soutpansberg), have won elections in their own right since the party broke away from the government in 1982.

The government may be helped by a failure of the right wing, thus far, to reach an election pact.

While Mr Marais expressed his wish for a "speedy" election agreement, Dr Treurnicht dismissed the possibility of immediate negotiations, saying his party's invitation to the HNP for unification still stood.

The CP has called a "unification" congress in Pretoria on January 24, which the HNP has dismissed. This could determine whether right-wing bickering will split their vote and give Mr Botha a pre-election gift.

On the other side of the white political spectrum, an election arrangement between the PFP and the NRP will be crucial to avoid any splitting of the moderate opposition vote, as occurred in 1981.

The PFP's Mr Andrew said yesterday that talks would be held with the NRP.

The PFP raised R1 million for an election campaign and announced a new strategy last year to form the basis of an alternative government within five years.

It believes that far more whites support PFP policies than has been reflected in previous elections.

Commentary Foresees Mandate in General Election
MB050521 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
 0500 GMT 5 Jan 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] The state president's announcement of a general election this year has been welcomed by leaders of the five parliamentary parties which will be contesting the elections to the House of Assembly. It is common cause that South Africa is facing a difficult future — that the ship of state will be negotiating stormy and even dangerous seas. In a democracy it is the right and the responsibility of the people — the electorate — to give judgment on who should guide the ship of state on the voyage that lies ahead for them. And, in the present constitutional dispensation, it is the electorate of the House of Assembly that is chiefly charged with this responsibility.

The issues facing the electorate as it prepares to give judgment are clear-cut. First and foremost is the question as to how the political face of South Africa should look in the future — how the aspirations of the many minorities in our plural society are to be satisfied and safeguarded in an equitable manner. More specifically, the question that must be answered is whether the present program and pace of reform should be continued with or whether it should be expedited, as some would have, or halted and even turned back, as others would have. On that cardinal

issue the electorate will be expected to give a clear mandate to the incoming administration.

Coupled with this is the question of the revolutionary onslaught and how best it can be contained and then defeated. Then, and equally important, there is the onslaught from abroad: from the political activists in Western nations, the revolutionaries who operate from behind the Iron Curtain — and the sanctioners. The electorate will expect to be presented by political leaders with unequivocal standpoints on both the internal revolutionary onslaught and external pressures.

Finally, there is the question of the national economy. After the long period of economic tribulations, there are firm indications that the economy is about to start moving again and that better times lie ahead for South Africans. There is need for this promise to be encouraged and stimulated. This can be done only if there is confidence in the nation on the future, and that, in turn, means that there must be no uncertainty on cardinal issues: the future course of reform, the combating of the revolutionary onslaught and the countering of external pressures.

Voters in this year's general election will be required to give a clear mandate on these issues so that South Africa can enter the future from a position of strength.

'Gag Rules' To Remain in Effect for Election

MB040730 Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES in English
4 Jan 87 pp 1, 2

[By Lester Venter and Normen West]

[Text] The "emergency election" is to be fought under the toughest gag rules in the country's history.

Senior government sources confirmed yesterday that no exemptions from the draconian state-of-emergency provisions were being considered for campaigning politicians.

And the official opposition is so angered by the conditions under which it will be forced to fight — worse even than during the second world war — that it is planning symbolic demonstrations at its political meetings.

The furor erupted this week in the wake of President Botha's long-awaited announcement on New Year's Eve that an election would be held early this year — though the date has not been set. As party workers and politicians turned thoughts from festivities to work, these details emerged:

— President Botha will be spelling out the constitutional ideas for which he will be asking the electorate's support in his opening of Parliament — all indications are that it will entail a revamped National Statutory Council Bill which will give nominated blacks some executive powers.

— The white electorate may well have to go back to the polls within two years when the coloured and Indian Houses end their five-year term, as no changes to the constitution to allow an extension of time for one House is being considered.

— Speculation that President Botha may use the outcome of the election for his swansong is premature: indications are that he will stay on at least till the end of 1988, during which four important national historical events will be celebrated.

— Some serious differences of opinion within the Cabinet preceded the decision to hold an early election.

— Both the main opposition groupings to the left and right of the government are edging towards some form of pact: a working alliance between the Conservative Party and the HNP is not ruled out, and an alliance or even merger between the Progressive Federal and new Republic parties is very much on the cards.

But the deepest concern in opposition circles focuses on the extensive gag rules which under the emergency affects press and politicians alike.

Opposition politicians have already stated their intentions of ignoring the regulations in campaign speeches. But their electoral pamphlets and brochures could be affected — and the media's freedom to report campaign speeches will be limited.

Yesterday the minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, who is charged with administering the regulations, said: "This is a democratic country where parties are allowed to say what they want within the limitations of the law."

The emergency regulations would have to be kept in mind, but he did not believe they would disadvantage opposition parties.

But the leader of the official Opposition, Mr Colin Eglin, warned that the emergency regulations affected what public representatives chose to say about, for example, the actions of the security forces, and undoubtedly influenced newspapers in what they could publish.

Mr Eglin described the situation as two-edged: opposition parties could not speak freely while the State propaganda media like the SABC were free selectively to disseminate "facts."

"It is like fighting with one's hands tied behind one's back and the referee biased in favour of the other side."

His party was considering symbolic protests at its public meetings to make audiences aware of the fact that the elections were being held under abnormal conditions.

In government quarters there is a marked reluctance to discuss the content of the constitutional proposals the government is likely to put to the electorate.

But one source indicated it would probably be a further extension of the powers of the proposed all-race National Statutory Council — and perhaps even something more on black city states.

Meanwhile, it has emerged that there was less than unanimity about the calling of an early election. Constitutional Development quarters, it is understood, did not want an election while they were still in the process of seeking black support for the Statutory Council.

But other quarters believed that tactically the best time to hold an election was now: a slight economic upturn would help the Government, public indignation at sanctions could be easily mobilised and the gold windfalls would enable the Government to pay healthy public-service salaries before the elections.

In other developments:

A pact between the New Republic Party and Progressive Federal Party is now likely, thus opening up large parts of Natal, the Cape Peninsula and some Rand seats to the left of the National Party. Optimistic projections by the PFP put the number of winnable seats at 40.

Intensive efforts are under way in the far-right camp to forge an election alliance which will present the Government with a serious threat on the right, which some analysts believe could also net as many as 40 seats.

Labor Party Congress Elects Hendrickse, Others
MB041823 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1752 GMT
4 Jan 87

[Text] Port Elizabeth, Jan 4, SAPA — The controversial Transvaal leader of the Gabor Party, Mr Jac Rabie, was elected national deputy-chairman, defeating Mr Abe Williams by a comfortable majority.

Earlier, Mr Rabie failed in his bid to become national chairman when the Rev Andrew Julius was re-elected during the Labour Party's annual congress in Port Elizabeth.

The two positions were the only ones put to the vote after the former national chairman, Mr David Curry, declined nomination for any position.

Labour Party leader, Rev Allan Hendrickse, was unanimously re-elected.

Others re-elected were; deputy-leader, Mr Miley Richards; national secretary, Mr Fred Peters; and national treasurer, Mr Vernon Sass.

Mr Hendrickse announced at the end of the party's 21st annual congress that Mr D. Roper would be the Labour Party candidate in by-election in the Transvaal seat of Bosmont on March 4.

The vacancy resulted from the death of the leader of the Freedom Party, Mr Arthur Booysen.

ANC's Tambo Says RSA Losing Political Control
MB050942 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
0400 GMT 5 Jan 87

[Text] Oliver Tambo, the ANC president, has said that the latest measures taken by the South African Government show that Pretoria has lost political control over a large part of South Africa's territory. In an interview granted to the BBC in Lusaka yesterday, Oliver Tambo said that in South Africa the apartheid regime is unable to exercise political control and that the loss of that control is being minimized through the use of the army. The ANC president added that South Africa has quickly become a militarized country with the army occupying black residential areas.

Black Political Groups Call for Unity in 1987
MB030746 Johannesburg THE STAR in English
2 Jan 87 p 13

[By Mike Tissong and Colleen Ryan]

[Excerpts] In their New Year messages, various black political organisations called for unity and hoped for a year without inter-party strife.

The Azanian National Youth Unity (Azanyu) said 1987 should be regarded as "the year of unity". The United Democratic Front has committed itself "to building even greater unity".

Azanyu said in a statement: "There can be no victory for the national liberation struggle without a solid unity of the oppressed sections of the population. In our liberation struggle, unity means victory and division means defeat."

The basic differences in the black community were between the Africanists and the Black Consciousness movement on one side and adherents of the Freedom Charter — UDF — on the other.

"The liberation movement should be vigilant against all divisive tendencies. The oppressed and the exploited must be educated to understand that the victory of any struggle is not the work of a particular individual or group, but the result of a collective effort."

Azanyu also called for unity between the two labour giants, Cusa-Azactu [Council of Unions of South Africa-Azanian Confederation of Trade Unions] and the Congress of South African Trade Unions. (Cosatu). [passage omitted]

The Azanian People's Organisation said it had extended a hand to rival political groups, but had been spurned in favour of violence.

"This year we extend that hand again, not because we are afraid of defending the socialist ideology in the face of this aggression, but because the unity of the oppressed is imperative if we are to realise liberation."

It said pupils should return to school and added that the "anti-Bantu Education protest stands out for the trauma it has brought on the black community in 1986. If it is allowed to continue, it will foster illiteracy and achieve what Verwoerd set out to achieve."

The exiled Black Consciousness Movement urged "solidarity in the ranks of the oppressed".

"All genuine organisations of the people, irrespective of ideological differences, should mobilise against the racist regime. Unity, as a fundamental principle of struggle, should be pursued."

Le Grange Becomes Acting Speaker of Parliament

*MB031217 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 3 Jan 87*

[Text] The former minister of law and order, Mr Louis le Grange has been appointed by the state president as acting speaker of parliament. The appointment is effective from 1 January. The state president says in a statement issued by his office this morning that the former speaker, Mr Johan Greeff, has been appointed a member of the President's Council from the same date. The new speaker of parliament will be elected in Cape Town 28th of this month, and Mr le Grange will be the candidate of the NP. Our political staff reports that Mr Greeff will, in turn, be the candidate of the NP for the election of a new chairman of the President's Council. The previous chairman, Dr Piet Koorhof, has been appointed ambassador to Washington.

Afrikaner Academics Postpone Meeting With ANC

*MB040654 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0600 GMT
4 Jan 87*

[Text] Three Afrikaans legal academics have postponed a visit to Lusaka to meet the ANC. They were to meet an ANC delegation in Lusaka on Monday to discuss human rights in postapartheid South Africa. Pretoria Professors Hennie Viljoen and Johan van der Westhuizen and Rand Afrikaans University academic Dirk van der Merwe say the meeting has been postponed owing to what they call (?various) circumstances. They have refused to elaborate. Professor van der Westhuizen says the three planned to have talks with the ANC about their views on aspects such as a bill of rights as part of a research project. He says they may try to visit the banned organization at a later date. Speculation that the government has put pressure on the academics not to go through with the visit could not be confirmed.

Information Bureau Releases Unrest Reports

2 Jan Report

*MB030810 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0807 GMT
3 Jan 87*

[Text] Pretoria, Jan 3, SAPA — Following is the bureau for Information's "unrest report" for the period 1987-01-02 (00h01 to 1987-01-02 (24h00):

"This period was very calm. Only a few incidents occurred - mainly petrol bomb and stone throwing incidents.

"At Duncan Village (East London) an unknown group of black people stoned a vehicle of the security forces. No casualties were reported. Four black men were arrested.

"At Meadowlands (Soweto) a group of plus minus 70 black people stoned a vehicle of the security forces. The security forces fired teargas. No casualties or arrests were reported."

Ends report

3 Jan Report

*MB041340 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1338 GMT
4 Jan 87*

[Text] Pretoria, Jan 4, SAPA — The following is the unrest report from the Bureau of Information, Pretoria:

"Incidents during this period consisted mainly of stone throwing, and it was against the security forces.

"At Botshabelo, Bloemfontein, plus-minus 200 black people stoned members of the security forces as well as a security force vehicle."

"The security forces fired six rounds of birdshot.

"A black man older than 18 years was seriously injured.

"Eight members of the security forces were slightly injured.

"Four black people older than 18 years were arrested.

"At Tembisa, Kempton Park, plus-minus 20 black people chased a black man into a house."

"They attacked him with a sharp object and dragged him outside again.

"A petrol bomb was poured over him and then he was set alight.

"He was Mr Meliaya Vojiga, 18.

"At Skemer, Merweville, Cape Province, plus-minus 150 coloured people stoned members of the security forces as well as members of the public.

"A coloured man older than 18 years was seriously injured by a stone.

"No further injuries were mentioned.

"Six coloured men were arrested.

"No further information is available about the bomb at the Samlam Centre in Johannesburg (last night)."

4 Jan Report

MB051016 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1004 GMT
5 Jan 87

[Text] Pretoria Jan 5 SAPA — Herewith the Bureau for Information's unrest report for the period 0H01 to 24H00 yesterday.

A thus far not identified black man was burned alive by a group of about 100 black persons in Meadowlands (Soweto) on Saturday. No arrests have as yet been made. Police investigations are continuing.

About 400 coloureds gathered illegally at Laaiplek (Paarl) yesterday. The security forces who arrived on the scene were stoned by the group. One member of the forces, Const P.J. Van der Merwe, was seriously injured in the attack. The mob was dispersed with tearsmoke and birdshot and 7 coloured men were arrested.

(Note: Initial information in this regard indicated that this incident was not unrest-related and press enquireies were informed as such. Further investigations, however, brought to light that this was, in fact, unrest-related).

In Veeplass (Port Elizabeth) yesterday, radicals stoned and ambulance. Slight damage was caused to the vehicle and no arrests have yet been made.

A group of radical youths were yesterday surprised by security forces at a garage in Kagiso (Germiston) while manufacturing petrol bombs. The youths fled and two of them were injured when the security forces fired birdshot at them. No arrests have yet been made.

A group of black persons threw a petrol bomb at the private home of a security force member in Sebokeng (Vereeniging) yesterday. The member fired at the assailants who in turn returned the fire. The 7-year-old daughter of the security force members neighbour was fatally wounded in the crossfire. No arrests were made. SAP investigations continue.

"Unknown persons threw a handgrenade into the main bedroom of the house of Mr Hamilton Ntshangase, 31, in Umlazi in Durban last night.

"Mr Ntshangase is an inspector with the KwaZulu education department. His wife, Sylvia, 29, was killed in explosion while he himself sustained several injuries.

"No arrests have yet been made. Police investigations are continuing."

Press Comments on Current Problems, Issues

3 Jan Press Review

MB030814 [Editorial report]

STAR: Region Needs Statesmen

In a column on page 12 of Johannesburg *The Star* in English on 2 January, Gerald l'Ange, editor of *The Star's* Africa News Service, reports on an interview with Dr Erich Leistner, director of the Africa Institute, who "sees a need for statesmen with courage and foresight to save the whole region from drifting into disaster over the apartheid conflict." "South Africa, he says, 'seems to be reacting to rhetoric and events in neighbouring countries rather than moulding the pattern of intra-regional relations and overall development.'" On the other hand, "Dr Leistner says the leaders of the Frontline states could significantly contribute to a peaceful future if they were to adopt a constructive attitude rather than press blindly for majority rule." "Dr Leistner believes the present crisis in South Africa revolves around three 'fundamental challenges': the Africanisation of white South Africa, the modernisation of black South Africa, and the creation of a free and democratic order for all." He also feels that South African whites "might be better off under a political system that protects the rights of the individual than one that protects ethnic minorities," since "the rights of minority groups are bound to come under attack if the majority group feels disadvantaged by it."

STAR: Government Behind Rand's Decline

Commenting on the decline in the value of the rand in his "Politics" column on page 6 of Johannesburg *The Star* in English on 3 January, Rob Nuttall says it is now clear that "political policies that placed this country on skid row 38 years back are the primary reason for our economic and monetary woes." The rand is worth so little today that "even poor Zimbabwe, which many South Africans berate as some kind of banana republic with no solid economic backbone, is better off in terms of foreign currency exchange than we are!" "For many South Africans the fear of a change from a white dominated government to shared rule with blacks or even black majority rule lies in the theory that economically we shall suffer and that living standards will drop. The simple question is this: just how much more worthless could any other government of South Africa make our national currency?"

5 Jan Press Review

MB050440 [Editorial report]

SUNDAY TIMES on Election

"The forthcoming general election is welcomed because there is much that needs clarification in white politics," Johannesburg *SUNDAY TIMES* in English on 4 January says in a page 4 editorial. There are, however, two questions which must be asked: "First, is it possible to conduct a free and fair election, in the proper sense of those words, under a state of emergency?" "Extraparliamentary events have a profound relevance to our political future, and censorship will deprive voters of essential information upon which to base their choice. Equally disquieting,

with the Government now the sole source of information, the facts — or not — about key issues will, in effect, be totally controlled by one of the competing parties in the elections. Second, why have an election for whites only?" President Botha's decision to permit only whites to express an opinion on crucial contemporary issues that affect all population groups illustrates just how much the legislative process remains dominated by whites." "In recent months the ruling party's incompetence in the everyday business of managing national affairs, combined with the absence of proper plans for the present or any viable vision for the future, has made white voters realise that what South Africa needs most is an opportunity to break out of the fossilised mold of present-day politics." "Public opinion even among more sensible elements of the NP is coalescing around the desire for an alliance of sensible, moderate leaders who are willing to address the realities of our time and to construct a just post-apartheid society in which there is safety and a share prosperity for all its people."

'Copycatting' West Not Solution

In a column on the same page, Otto Krause notes that in their search for development, "most Third World countries curiously try to copy everything that now exists in the developed countries, including their present doctrines," without taking into account that these doctrines are the products of unique sets of circumstances in those countries. Krause believes "when developing countries don't indulge in copycatting and quietly case aside the dominant powers' prescriptions, the results are usually outstanding," and points to Brazil, South Korea, and Taiwan as examples. To achieve economic growth, and thereby prosperity for the population, developing countries need the following: "a long period of tough, disciplined government; a restricted franchise; hopefully the institutions of democracy (for later expansion); sound housekeeping; an impartial system of justice; a rising level of education and, most important, economic freedom for the individual. That of course, is definitely not the recipe recommended by the liberal West. Essentially, it would have the Third World practise universal democracy, as well as observe the fullest human rights — both of which are hardly compatible with tough, discipline government. We South Africans, mostly Third World, and but a fifth of us First, very much need to reflect on such issues in seeking answers to our difficulties. And we, too, should avoid falling into the trap of copycatting fashionable doctrine."

Election About Retaining Power

In his "Another Voice" column on the same page, Harald Pakendorf writes that the election will really be about two questions: "should the whites hang on to power? Can they hang on to power?" "We have an ideal opportunity to discuss these at length during the next month as we run into the election campaign, but we won't. Because the election is about retaining power — and to that end we will be asked to fight off all those interfering foreigners. It is a neat trick which will work, and the National Party can expect, and does expect confidently to be returned to power, albeit with a slightly reduced majority. A small prediction is in place here: the NP will lose a little to the CP, which will gain enough seats possibly to become the official Opposition, while the PFP will end as a third force. Also their stay-away vote will be unusually high, as very many full-blooded Nationalist will not vote again — they cannot go with the lack of leadership from the NP, are dead against the CP, and don't

trust the PFP." Since the real issue behind the election is retaining power, "it is too much to ask any political party to plan its own demise. But that does not mean that a groundswell of discontent cannot become a force which will bring about that which nobody plans deliberately. We may see the beginnings of this in 1987. But in the approach to that coming about we will live in uncertainty, instability, rising prices and falling real incomes."

Change-in Attitude Needed

In another column on page 14 of the *Sunday Times*, Derek Carstens writes that before a constitutional solution can be found, changes must be made at the individual level to develop positive attitudes and offers 10 steps to achieving his. "First, we must guard our souls and intellects against the harmful ravages of racial prejudice." "Second, we should be bold in our approach and not feel intimidated by either Government or big business." "Third, let us put the interests of the country ahead of all else." "Fourth, a long-term view should be taken. We must try to articulate a vision for the country which will provide the focus for a communal effort." "Fifth, we must not be intimidated by sabre-rattling from the Right or necklace smoke from the Left." "Sixth, we must consider what we have in common with our fellow citizens rather than our differences." "Seventh, we must not, for our country's sake, be side-tracked by the sanctions situation. This will tend to make us defensive and take our eyes off the ball." "Eighth, we must not allow ourselves to condone the use of violence within the country by either the ruling or the oppressed." "Ninth, remember that this country will be changed by a change in your and my attitude." "Tenth, and finally, we should discipline ourselves to committing our point of view in writing and don't be afraid to let your heart rule your head."

Whites Must Apologize

In a column on page 15, Danie Craven, chairman of the South African Rugby Board, writes that "wrongs must be rectified immediately, and we must start by telling our own fellow South Africans that we have insulted and hurt them but that we regret the injustice of it. We must tender our most humble apologies to them all. We must tell them that we are truly sorry. Having done that, we must assure them that we will rectify what we have messed up — and ask them to play the same game. We will then have the right to ask them to accept us as we are now, and leave us to complete our own dirty work. No matter what their reactions may be, we must continue on the road of reform. We must not do it piecemeal, but abolish all apartheid laws — for these are the instruments which have caused the hurt. This will entail going back to the days before apartheid — bringing back the representation the other groups had to run South Africa."

Speculation on P.W. Botha's Successor

In another page 15 column, political correspondent Lester Venter says that the forthcoming election is likely to reopen speculation on how long P.W. Botha will stay in office. Many believe that "after setting his party on the path of reform, Mr Botha has exhausted his vision. He has conveyed to many observers a sense of tiredness, even of exasperation, and the election results in one way or the other — may provoke him to announce his retirement." National Education Minister F.W. de Klerk and Constitutional Development and Planning Minister Chris Heunis are believed to be the frontrunning contenders for Botha's

job. "While Mr de Klerk is regarded as the popular choice of the caucus which will elect the new President, there have been signs and suggestions in inner circles that Mr Heunis is favoured by Mr Botha himself." In addition to the election, 1987 may also see the worsening of regional relations since "as the all-out security clampdown on political dissent in the country intensified upon the accent of 'the struggle' is likely to move to ANC activities launched from bases in neighbouring states."

STAR: Botswana Gives Lesson in Democracy

In his "Just Jon" column on page 16 of Johannesburg *The Sunday Star* in English on 4 January, Jon Qwelane points out that when Barclays Bank workers went on strike in Botswana, management told the workers that their demands would be considered if they return to work instead of calling in the police. "The adult manner in which management handled the manner should have taught interested parties elsewhere a valuable lesson, not least that the police and, in particular brute force, are not a solution." "Botswana recognises the right of people to strike or oppose whatever they feel is unjust. It recognises their right to freedom of speech and association. Maybe the people of Botswana can give many of those of the country I have in mind a lesson or two of democracy, human rights and justice."

STAR: Reform Only Election Issue

"The only real value of this poll would be if the Government was willing to alter course dramatically rather than seek byways for its past policies," says an editorial on page 19 of Johannesburg *The Sunday Star* in English for 4 January. "This country cannot afford to waste yet another year debating what the pace of change should be or whether the government has found any black leaders to talk to." Logic and common sense demand "that the platform for the election be power-sharing and domestic reform. It would serve no purpose if the Government should merely appeal to whites to back it in the face of international hostility. The laager doesn't need to be strengthened; it needs to be breached." The editorial concludes that "the message to South Africa and the outside world must be that fundamental change is in the offing. If that is a forlorn hope, then there is little hope for our country."

Election 'Strange' But 'Vital'

In an article on the same page, Harry Schwarz, PFP MP for Yeoville, comments on the upcoming House of Assembly election. "No-one wants to encourage violence or sedition but how can an election be fought" when restraints are imposed on the media, "which has to report the politicians' speeches, comment on them, and give their own views on how the country's problems should be solved." After noting the obvious election issues — the number of seats each party will win — Schwarz states: "I personally have a feeling that people in South Africa today are less concerned about party divisions than they are about solutions to problems." "On the PFP side there is no doubt that on the political front the major issue is one of negotiation, of formulating an acceptable Constitution which will have safeguards for human rights, and which will be non-discriminatory on the grounds of race or color." "We live in a country in which unrest has not come to an end, where a state of emergency exists, where press curbs exist, where inflation is rife, where unemployment is high, where there are sanctions and boycotts and where there are no plans on the table from those who govern us as to how the South Africa of the future will look. Yet those who have got us into this mess,

or at least contributed to getting us into this mess, confidently look forward to a mandate to continue in office. Certainly a remarkable if strange situation." "It will be a strange election — but a vital one for us all."

SWAZILAND

4 ANC Members Arrested, Arms Cache Seized

MB050751 Mbabane *THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND* in English 5 Jan 87 pp 1, 16

[By Pat Jele]

[Text] Four members of the African National Congress were arrested by police at a house in Mbabane over the weekend.

Police also seized a quantity of arms of war including a large cache of explosives in the raid at Queensgate.

Police Public Relations Officer, [PRO] Assistant Superintendent Norman Mkhwanazi said the four are currently being detained by the police pending charges.

The four were arrested by a police special paramilitary platoon at their house at 4 a.m. on Saturday.

Seized from them was six landmines, eight hand grenades, three zoba times watch bombs and an undisclosed number of arms of war.

According to eyewitnesses, the four were arrested together with two of their girlfriends and a young baby.

One of the women is a former Government Public Prosecutor who was stationed in a Magistrates' court in the South.

A police spokesman said when the police arrived at the house to arrest the people, they all resisted arrest by refusing to open the door, despite having introduced themselves to the occupants of the house as members of the police force.

"The police had to use force by threatening the occupants before they responded by opening the door. When they opened the door, they realised that it was in fact members of the police force.

"After the door was opened, the police asked to search the house and occupants agreed.

"During the search, these arms of war including the bombs were found in the house occupied by these people and they were subsequently arrested," eyewitnesses said.

The charges against the six were not disclosed yesterday at the time of going to Press.

The eyewitnesses said when a further search was conducted by the police para-military special platoon, an automatic pistol of the Russian origin was found hidden in a compartment in the house.

The Police PRO, Mr Mkhwanazi said the nation was warned by the police Headquarters last year not to carry any dangerous weapons like arms of war without permit or licence.

"Despite that warning by the police, these six did violate the law by keeping these arms in their house without licence.

"We still appeal to the public not to violate this warning because it is a serious offence if a person is found in unlawful possession of arms of war without a permit.

"The public is once again reminded to take note of this warning," Mr Mkhwanazi said.

ZAMBIA

U.S. Missionary Reportedly Detained

*MB041114 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1100 GMT
4 Jan 87*

[Text] The U.S. embassy in Lusaka says Zambian authorities have detained an elderly American missionary. An embassy spokesman says the priest is being held in what he had described as Lusaka's overcrowded, vermin-infested Kamwala prison. The embassy says it does not know why Mr (Robert Brain) of the American and African Evangelical Fellowship has been detained, but says they are trying to establish details.

The priest was spotted being taken into prison by a British tourist, Mr Chris Bennett, who has recently been released from detention in the same prison. Mr Bennett, who was being held as an alleged South African spy, says the priest is about 60 years old.

ZIMBABWE

Banana Urges RSA To End Minority Rule

*MB030552 Harare Domestic Service in English
0400 GMT 3 Jan 87*

[Text] The president, Comrade Canaan Banana, has urged his South African counterpart, P.W. Botha, to accept democracy and the fact that white minority rule is doomed. President Banana told *The Herald* that whites in South Africa who are lending support to the liberation struggle have nothing to fear. He added that the sooner the criminal element surrenders, the better for themselves.

He said the people of Zimbabwe and their leaders went through imprisonment and torture, while massacres against defenseless refugees were carried out in Mozambique, Zambia, and Botswana. Despite this, the leaders and their supporters came back, forgot the past, and forgave the wrong-doers. Comrade Banana said Botha should (?look) to this magnanimity by the Africans and end his evil policy of apartheid.

'Complete Change' in Parliament System Promised

*MB050814 Harare Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT
5 Jan 87*

[Text] The speaker of the House of Assembly, Comrade Didymus Mutasa, says Zimbabwe can do well without many aspects of the Lancaster House constitutional agreement. Speaking in a television interview last night, Comrade Mutasa said the agreement expires this year and that one would wish to see change in the station between whites and black. Comrade Mutasa said the idea that some people were treated preferentially than others would certainly be done away with and that merit would replace color.

The speaker said there would be a complete change of the Westminster parliamentary system in favor of Africanization.

Comrade Mutasa said the participation from members had greatly improved since the introduction of Shona and Ndebele in the (?debate) system. He defended the idea of building a new parliament [words indistinct] many people have to have access to parliamentary proceedings. The speaker said the present parliament has inadequate space.

ZANU-PF Suspends District Executive Members

*MB032051 Harare Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 3 Jan 87*

[Text] The ZANU-PF Matabeleland north provincial chairman, Comrade Christoph Ndlovu has announced the suspension of five executive members of the party's Bulawayo east district. The five accused of promoting tribalism and engaging in destructive and disruptive activities within the party in the province are Comrades (Loveless Makoni), (Francis Jovu), (Danial Gumbakumba), (John Mutende), and (Gottfried Tjinigo).

Announcing the decision at a press conference following a provincial executive committee meeting in Bulawayo today, Comrade Ndlovu said a letter recommending their expulsion from the ruling party has been sent to the commissariat department. Comrade Ndlovu said the five appointed themselves to the executive committee of the Bulawayo district, publishing libelous literature and discouraging people from attending party meetings.